

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
Pastor Krystal Goodger
Luke 19:28-40
Palm Sunday
March 29, 2015

It's Palm Sunday. And so Holy Week begins. Today is Palm Sunday, and if there is a "word of the day" for this day, I think it's the word, "Hosanna!" How often did we see that word show up in our service today! We started the service by saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David." Our opening hymn sang about how "the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring." Our children processed by saying, "Hosanna in the highest." Then we heard the Gospel reading where the crowd cries out, "Hosanna!" So before I even stood up here, we heard or said or sang the word, "hosanna," at least eleven times! And that doesn't even count how many times I will say hosanna in my sermon! After this sermon we will sing "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna". Truly "Hosanna!" is "The Word of the Day."

Today is Palm Sunday. Today we remember when Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Pastor James May writes that "The earthly ministry of Christ was at an end. The plan of God for the salvation of mankind was nearing its completion. We all know that Jesus would soon be going to the cross to die but it's hard for us to imagine how that the same crowds who praised and looked to Jesus as their Messiah on Palm Sunday would so quickly turn into the mob that demanded his crucifixion less than 5 days later.

What brought about such a huge change in their attitudes? What was it that caused them to change their minds so dramatically?

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, he entered the city as a King, but he rode in on a donkey that day as to signify that his was a peaceful entry.

When Kings entered as conquerors, they would enter riding upon a prancing stallion at the head of their military entourage. But when they entered in peace they would ride upon a colt. No matter how the king entered the people were obliged to turn out to praise them as they rode through the gates.

Jesus, being the very Son of God, could have chosen to enter Jerusalem that day on a prancing stallion, but this was not God's plan so Jesus did not ride into Jerusalem as a conqueror. He came in on the colt to signify that his reign would usher in a time of peace.

Then they cried out over and over again, "Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."

What were they saying by shouting these words? Were they praising Jesus? Were they saying they believed him to be the Messiah? Were they supporting him? Yes, to all. You see, there is a double meaning to the shout of Hosanna!

First of all, it was a shout of praise, of glorifying the Son of God. There were many present who believed that Jesus was the Son of God. All of his miracles had convinced them that he was who he claimed to be. They were shouting an exclamation of praise when they screamed "Hosanna to the Son of David". This was their way of saying that we know that you are the Messiah and so we praise

you.

Now there is a second meaning to this word Hosanna. It also means “save now, or save I pray!”

As the crowd shouted “Hosanna, Blessed be the King that comes in the name of the Lord:” they were actually crying out to Jesus to begin the revolution that would free them from Roman rule.

Now we can begin to understand why their attitude would change so quickly in the coming days. They fully believed that Jesus was their Messiah who would come to usher in a day of freedom, peace and prosperity for the nation of Israel. They believed he would free them from slavery and oppression of the Romans and that they would finally know the peace that God had promised.

That’s the kind of Messiah that mankind is still looking for right now! Most people don’t want to serve a God who will establish his kingdom of peace in their **hearts** with a **promise** of an eternal reward to come. They want a Messiah that will give them a perfect life on this earth and give them a kingdom here and now.

The people in Jesus’ day didn’t want a sacrifice for sin; they wanted a King. They didn’t want a spiritual deliverer; they wanted an earthly deliverer. They didn’t want a Messiah that would be a lamb led to the slaughter who would die on the cross for them; they wanted a Messiah that would lead them in battle and live for them as a conquering hero.

This is why Jesus rode into Jerusalem that day. It was a Triumphant Entry in the greatest sense of the word. He rode in as the King who was coming to conquer death, hell and the grave. A conquering king was what Jerusalem wanted, but Jesus was not be that king that they desired and so we can see that the same crowd who waved the palm branches and threw them and their clothes in the street for Jesus to ride upon would be the crowd who would turn against him so very quickly.

So that we won't think that the Jews are the only ones to blame for rejecting Jesus and then screaming for his crucifixion, I want to remind you how we react to him in our day and time.

There are many today who will confess their belief in Jesus as their Savior. It's not hard to find people who claim to be Christian. But it is hard to find people who live as a Christian should live! Why is this so?

Too many people come to Christ, accepting him as their Messiah, with the same attitude that the people in Jesus' day had. They want a Messiah who will give them a perfect life. They are looking for an earthly King who will give them a life of peace, safety, health, prosperity and happiness. While Jesus can and does give us many blessings in this life, we must never forget that he didn't die for us to have a good life on **this** earth. He died for us to have eternal life!

You will see multitudes of people who will shout Hosanna to the Lord this morning, but which Hosanna are they shouting? Which Hosanna are YOU shouting?

Are you shouting Hosanna, praise the Lord, the Savior of the World, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Hosanna to the Lord of my life. Hosanna to the one who died for me and saved me from my sins.

Or, are you shouting Hosanna, “save us now, save us”, save us from our burdens. Save us from our troubles. Save us from our sicknesses. Save us from our family troubles. Save us from the storms of life, but don’t try to control my life because I want to be free to live as I please without the interference of God’s laws and his word.

Let’s shout Hosanna to the Lord this morning. Let’s praise him for being the Son of God. Let’s worship him as the Lord of our lives. Let’s give thanks to Jesus for what he has done for us.

Jesus desires to enter the doors of your heart right now. He does not come to you as a conquering hero, with his unlimited power to force his will upon you. He comes to your door as a peaceful deliverer. Jesus gently calls to every heart, asking if we will open the door and allow him to become our King and the Lord of our lives.

Will you shout Hosanna as you allow him to come in? Will you shout blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord? Shout Hosanna! Shout praises to our LORD! Shout Hosanna! Amen.