

Psalm 118 & Palm Sunday

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 21:1-10 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. ³ "And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." ⁴ All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. ⁸ And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰ And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"

Psalm 118:19-29 ¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

²⁵ LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.

²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Key Point: Jesus fulfilled prophecies of his right as king and that he would be both rejected and the cornerstone of the church. Trusting Him brings real security.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- If you had to describe your past week as a Psalm, what would its title be? (e.g., "Psalm of Near Missed Deadlines," or "Psalm of the Overflowing Coffee Cup")

Reflect, Think, & Share: Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions with the group.

- Why was it so important for Jesus to ride a donkey into Jerusalem? (See Zechariah 9:9) What does this tell you about Jesus Character and mission?
- The crowd praised Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem, but many would reject Him days later. Why do you think that happened?
- Those who were present on "Palm Sunday," . . . how do you think they knew they should be there? (Some reasons: Luke 19:39-44, "the time of visitation" Dan 9:25; John 12:17-18; Psalm 118:25-27)
- When you read Psalm 118:19-29 without an understanding of Palm Sunday, what does it seem to be saying?
- Psalm 118:8-9 say it's better to trust in the Lord than in man or princes. In today's world what does that practically look like?
- Psalm 118:22 talks about the stone the builders rejected. Who is this speaking about? (see also Matt 21:42, Acts 4:11, Eph 2:20, 1 Peter 2:7)
- How does Psalm 118:22-24 highlight both God's sovereignty and man's responsibility?
- Psalm 118:24 says "this is the day that the Lord has made." How does knowing this refers to Jesus' death and resurrection deepen its meaning?

Start doing: Are there portions of Psalm 118 that resonate with you in a personal way? If so, take some time to meditate and pray about how it relates to your life, and then move your way toward praising God as the Psalmist does.

Prayer Requests. Take some time to pray together. Use the key scriptures as a guide in praying the scriptures back to God.

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The Final week of Jesus Ministry

The four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) speak of Jesus birth, very little about His childhood, many of His miracles, and his teaching. However, the focus is overwhelmingly on His last week, days, and hours. All of this leads to His crucifixion, burial, and resurrection which changed the world forever.

Tuesday:

- Jesus predicted he would be delivered to be crucified in two days (Matt. 26:1-5)

Wednesday:

- Judas bargains with the Jewish leaders to betray Jesus (Matt. 26:14-16; Luke 22:3-6)

Thursday:

- Preparation for the Passover Supper (Matt. 26:16-19; Luke 22:7-13)
- The Last Supper: (Mark 14:17ff; Matt 26:20ff; Luke 22:7-13)
 - o Washing the disciples feet by Jesus (John 13:1-20)
 - o Judas revealed as a betrayer (Mark 14:18-21; Luke 22:21-23; John 13:21-30)
 - o Jesus predicts the disciples desertion (Matt. 26:31-35; Luke 22:31-38; John 13:31-38)
 - o Jesus transforms Passover to a Memorial of His body and blood (Luke 22:17-20; Mark 14:22-25; Matt 26:26-29)
 - o Jesus' farewell talk in the Upper Room and on the way to Gethsemane (John 14-16)
- Jesus' intercessory prayer near Gethsemane (John 17)
- While Jesus and the disciples are at Gethsemane, Jesus prays, the disciples sleep. (Matt 26:36-46; Mark 14:26-42; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1)
- Judas betrays Jesus, He is arrested, and the disciples flee (Matt 26:57-68; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:2-12)

Friday:

- Jesus is examined by Annas, the ex-high priest (John 18:12-14, 19-23)
- Jesus is tried and condemned by high priest Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin (Mark 14:53-65; Matt 26:57-68; Luke 22:54, 63-65; John 18:24)
- Peter denies Christ three times (Mark 14:54, 66-72; Matt 26:58, 69-75; Luke 22:54-65)
- Jesus formally condemned by the Sanhedrin (Mark 15:1; Matt 27:1; Luke 22:66-71)
- Remorse and suicide of Judas (Matt 27:3-10; Acts 1:18-19)
- Jesus stands before Pilate the first time (Matt 27:2, 11-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38)
- Jesus stands before Herod Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee (Luke 23:6-12)
- Jesus stands before Pilate the 2nd time (Matt 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:39-19:16)
- Jesus beaten by Romans before crucifixion (Matt 27:27-30; Mark 15:16-19)
- Jesus led to Calvary (Matt 27:31-34; Mark 15:20-23; Luke 23:13-25; John 19:16-17)
- Jesus is crucified (Matt 27:56; Mark 15:20-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-37)
- Jesus' burial by Joseph of Arimathea (Matt 27:57-66; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-55; John 19:38-42) The tomb is sealed and guarded.

Sunday

Jesus has risen from the dead! He appears to Mary Magdalene, then to the other women, to Peter, then to 2 disciples, then 10 disciples, then 11 disciples, then 7 disciples at Galilee, and then more than 500 at one time, then to James (the half-brother of Jesus), then to the 11 disciples in Galilee, then to 11 disciples on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.