

Sermon Notes – Palm Sunday

The account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is recorded in all 4 Gospels but we took our reading from John 12:12-19.

Jesus' so-called 'Triumphal Entry' into Jerusalem at the beginning of Passion Week should perhaps be called His 'Tragic Entry' because it triggered events that led to his death. Luke (19:41) reports that when Jesus approached Jerusalem, He wept over it. The crowds lined the street and cheered for Jesus as the long-expected King of Israel, but they were hoping for a political king who could lead a military victory against Rome and provide eventual peace and prosperity for the nation. They were not so interested in a Messiah with a spiritual kingdom, who would provide forgiveness for their sins and who would be Lord of every aspect of their personal lives. So, within a week the shouts of 'Hosanna!' turned to 'Crucify Him!' The fickle crowd was following Jesus for the wrong reasons.

- Are there times when you might follow Jesus more because of what he might provide for you, than for who he is? What might happen to your faith if you think that following Jesus will give you financial security, good health and other benefits and then you suffer financial loss or your marriage falls apart or your children don't follow the Lord?
- Share occasions when your faith has been shaken or even destroyed because it was misplaced.

Hebrews 11:29-35a shows God can and does give dramatic victories to His people. But right in the middle of verse 35, it shifts, as verses 35b-38 reveal people who trust in God but are mocked, scourged, imprisoned, and martyred. The reward is not in this life but in the life to come. We shouldn't follow Jesus because we think he will give us all the goodies we want in this life.

- So why should we follow Jesus?

If your faith rests on the person of Jesus as revealed in Scripture, then you will not be shaken whether you go to prison or are blessed with prosperity. Your faith does not rest on happy circumstances but on who Jesus is and what he has promised his children throughout eternity.

- Are there any areas in your life (work, finances, relationships, goals) where Jesus is not King? What specifically do you need to do to yield these areas to him