

HOLY WEEK



April 5, 2020

Crying out for Jesus

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, save us. Save us from the devil, from this sin cursed world, and from our own sinful flesh. Save us for everlasting life with you. Amen.

Read: Matthew 21:1-11

Devotion:

Have you ever seen a limousine with a police motorcade and wondered to yourself, “Who could this be?” If you saw somebody being escorted into a building along a fancy red carpet, would you ponder in your mind, “Who in the world was that?” On the very first Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a young donkey, people began asking each other, “Who is this?”

It was obvious that some of the people thought Jesus was a really big deal. As He started coming into the city, they rushed forward to meet Him in festal procession. They cut down branches from the palm trees along the road and threw them down in front of Jesus to pave the way before Him. They even took off their cloaks and outer garments and laid them in front of Jesus. These were the actions of a people who thought that Jesus had come to solve all of her worldly problems.

But the people of Jerusalem were wrong. Jesus hadn’t come to provide peace, plenty, and prosperity for the Israelites. He hadn’t come to defeat the Romans, to fill their pantries with good things to eat, or to guide their nation to the greatest economy the world had ever seen. Could He have done those things had He wanted to? Absolutely! But the need Jesus had come to fulfill was even greater than any of those. Jesus had come to bring those people in Jerusalem—and all the people of the world—salvation from their sins.

The word Hosanna that the people kept shouting out that Sunday was a cry of praise that had originally meant “save us!” But as Jesus entered Jerusalem that day, many of the people thought Jesus had come simply to spare them the trouble of earthly struggles and inconveniences. In reality, Jesus had come to spare them from a danger far greater than taxation or sickness or poverty. He had come to spare them from the eternal

punishment of hell by bearing it for them on the cross. And He had come to do that so that they might live with Him forever in a heaven that would be free of all those worldly troubles as well.

Who is Jesus? He is not merely a four-leaf clover or a lucky charm to pull out only when we need some extra help. He is the Messiah, anointed by God the Father not just to rescue us from our worldly trials, but to be our eternal Savior and redeem our everlasting lives.

Additional Reading: Zechariah 9:9-13; Psalm 118; Philippians 2:5-11

Family Questions:

1. Jesus didn't meet the expectations of many of these people. Have you ever known someone who was disappointed when God didn't meet their expectations?
2. What are some unrealistic expectations we sometimes have of God? What can we do to keep our expectations of God rooted in truth?
3. How is Jesus able to help you in your current worldly needs?
4. How does the everlasting rescue He is able to provide you with (and already has!) help you in your present needs?
5. What can we do to remember who Jesus is and help others to come to truly know Him as well?

Going Deeper:

1. Read Luke 19:39-44. How do Jesus' actions here disprove what so many people were expecting of Him?
2. Make a list of your answers to the question "Who is Jesus to you?"

Hymn: Ride on, Ride on in Majesty

1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue your road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on his sapphire throne
Awaits his own anointed Son.

5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow your meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O Christ, your power and reign

Prayer:

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, and deliver us from this world of sorrow. Yet while we still must tarry here, shine in our lives and fill us with comfort of Your grace and with healing and hope. Lord, this is the day that You have made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!