

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: The Cry of the Desperate Heart

****Reading:**** Psalm 118:19-29

****Devotional:****

"Hosanna" was never meant to be a celebration—it was a desperate plea: "Save us, please!" The crowds on Palm Sunday shouted the right word but with wrong expectations, wanting political revolution instead of spiritual transformation. When we come to Jesus, do we bring our agendas or our surrender? Today, strip away the religious language and get honest with God. Where do you need saving? From what burden, sin, or brokenness are you crying out for deliverance? Jesus hears the authentic cry of your heart. Don't offer Him slogans; offer Him your real need. Let "Hosanna" become your honest prayer: "Lord, I cannot save myself. Please, save me."

Day 2: The Humble King

****Reading:**** Zechariah 9:9-10; Matthew 21:1-11

****Devotional:****

Kings on warhorses declare conquest; kings on donkeys declare peace. Jesus deliberately chose the donkey, fulfilling prophecy and rejecting the world's methods of power. He refused to weaponize the crowd's nationalism or build His kingdom through force. This confronts our modern temptation to advance God's purposes through worldly means—political manipulation, social pressure, or cultural dominance. Jesus' kingdom comes through humility, sacrifice, and servant-hearted love. Where are you tempted to grasp for control rather than trust His gentle leadership? The meek King who blessed the meek calls you to follow His pattern: influence through servanthood, victory through surrender, power perfected in weakness.

Day 3: When Jesus Doesn't Meet Our Expectations

****Reading:**** Isaiah 53:1-6; John 12:12-19

****Devotional:****

The same voices that shouted "Hosanna!" would soon cry "Crucify Him!" Why? Because Jesus refused to conform to their script. They wanted Rome defeated; He went to the cross. They wanted immediate political change; He brought eternal spiritual transformation. We face the same temptation—welcoming Jesus when He serves our purposes, disappointed when He doesn't. Examine your prayers: Are you asking Jesus to bless your plans or seeking His will? True discipleship means releasing our expectations and embracing His mission, even when it leads through suffering. The salvation Jesus offers is far greater than anything we could imagine, but it requires we surrender our smaller visions.

Day 4: The Sacrifice We Didn't Recognize

****Reading:**** Leviticus 7:11-15; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

****Devotional:****

The todah offering was Israel's thanksgiving sacrifice—given when God delivered you from danger, accompanied by testimony and shared meals. Palm Sunday's crowd thought they were welcoming a king to offer sacrifices; they didn't realize the King WAS the sacrifice. Jesus entered Jerusalem as the ultimate todah, the once-for-all thanksgiving offering for our deliverance. Every communion table echoes this reality: we gather to celebrate and testify to the deliverance He purchased with His own blood. Today, reflect on what Christ has delivered you from—sin, death, shame, hopelessness. Let gratitude fill your heart. Share your testimony with someone who needs hope. You're invited to the todah meal.

Day 5: Judgment Begins at God's House

****Reading:**** 1 Peter 4:12-19; Matthew 21:12-17

****Devotional:****

After Palm Sunday came Temple cleansing. Before confronting Rome, Jesus confronted religious corruption within God's house. This is uncomfortable but necessary: transformation begins with us, not "them." Before we blame culture, politics, or society for

moral decline, Jesus asks us to examine our own hearts, our own worship, our own integrity. Are we truly pursuing holiness? Genuinely loving the lost? Actually building His kingdom? Palm Sunday challenges us to stop waving branches at external enemies while ignoring internal compromise. Let the Spirit search you today. Confess what He reveals. Pursue authentic discipleship. The world will know Jesus through the transformed lives of His people, not our political victories.

This week, may you encounter Jesus as He truly is—the humble King, the sacrificial Lamb, the gentle Savior who comes on His terms, by His cross, for His glory. Hosanna!