

Outline

I. Introduction: The True Nature of Palm Sunday

- A. Common perception vs. reality
- B. Political, theological, and emotional significance
- C. The crowd's right word with wrong expectations

II. The Setting: Jerusalem During Passover

- A. The city packed with pilgrims
- B. Roman garrison on high alert
- C. Passover's theme of deliverance from oppression
- D. Significance of the Mount of Olives
- E. Modern comparison: Jacksonville during major events

III. Understanding "Hosanna"

- A. Etymology: Hebrew "hoshi'ah na" - "Save, please"
- B. Originally a plea, not praise
- C. Part of the Hallel (Psalms 113-118)
- D. Evolution from desperate cry to religious slogan
- E. The crowd's expectations of political deliverance
- F. How we fill familiar words with our own expectations

IV. The Symbolism of Palm Branches

- A. Historical context: Maccabean revolt
- B. Palms as symbols of national triumph and military victory
- C. Connection to Jewish revolt imagery

- D. The crowd expecting another military deliverance
- E. The irony: escorting the Lamb to His altar

V. The Todah Offering Connection

- A. Psalm 118:27 and the festal sacrifice
- B. Todah as thanksgiving offering after deliverance
- C. Jesus as the todah - the sacrifice Himself
- D. The crowd wants a sword; Jesus brings a cross

VI. The Donkey: Symbol of Humility

- A. Fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9
- B. Contrast: warhorse vs. donkey
- C. King of peace, not conquest
- D. Modern comparison: presidential motorcade vs. homecoming parade
- E. Jesus refuses the world's weapons and methods

VII. From "Hosanna" to "Crucify Him"

- A. The crowd's changing response
- B. Different groups, same heart issue
- C. Messianic expectations vs. Jesus' actual mission
- D. Jesus refuses to meet their political expectations

VIII. Mirror to Our Own Hearts

- A. What we want Jesus to do:
 1. Fix circumstances quickly
 2. Confirm our opinions

3. Defeat our enemies
4. Shield us from suffering

B. What Jesus actually calls us to:

1. Deny ourselves
2. Love our enemies
3. Confront our sin
4. Suffer for others
5. Trust His timing

IX. Palm Sunday as Upside-Down Coronation

- A. Borrowed donkey instead of royal procession
- B. Pilgrims and children instead of soldiers
- C. Walking toward cross instead of palace throne
- D. Victory through apparent defeat
- E. Connection to the Lord's Supper

X. Three Practical Responses

- A. Recover the original cry: "Save me, please"
 - Pray it genuinely, not as a slogan
 - Identify specific areas needing salvation
- B. Examine our expectations
 - Where have we recruited Jesus for our agenda?
 - Surrender to His plan, not ours

C. Let judgment begin at the house of God

- Examine our worship and integrity
- Focus on Kingdom building
- Address our own issues before criticizing others

XI. Conclusion: Receiving the True King

- A. Jesus as the humble King who never changes
- B. He still refuses to build His kingdom by force
- C. He still offers Himself as the once-for-all sacrifice
- D. The deeper question: Will we receive Him as He truly is?
- E. Final invitation: "Hosanna - on Your terms, by Your cross, for Your glory"