

SERMON NOTES

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PALM SUNDAY - CRUCIFY OR SAVE?

Key Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

1. **The Donkey** – Symbol of Peace and Kingship

- **Matthew 21:7** - Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey, fulfilling prophecy.
- **Old Testament Background**
 - **1 Kings 1:5, 33-34** – Solomon's coronation involved riding the king's mule, a symbol of royal authority and humility.
 - **Zechariah 9:9** – The Messianic King comes “lowly and riding on a donkey.”

2. **Palm Branches** – A Cry for Victory and Salvation

- **Matthew 21:8** - People spread cloaks and branches on the road to honor the coming King.
- **Biblical Significance**
 - **Leviticus 23:40** – Palm branches used during the Feast of Tabernacles for rejoicing before the Lord.
 - **Revelation 7:9** – A redeemed multitude stands before the throne with palm branches.

3. **Hosanna** – “Save Us, Now!”

- **Matthew 21:9** - The crowds shout, “Hosanna!” welcoming Jesus as Messiah.
- **Old Testament Foundation**
 - **Psalms 118:26** – “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

4. **Galileans & Jerusalem** – Two Responses to Jesus

- **Galileans** – **Mark 12:37**
 - Common people heard Jesus gladly; many followed Him with sincerity.
- **Jerusalem Crowd** – **Mark 15:11, 13**
 - Influenced by religious leaders, they demanded: “Crucify Him!”

5. **Crucify or Save Us?**

- **Mark 15:13 & Matthew 21:9** - The tension between wanting a Savior vs. rejecting Him when He doesn't meet personal expectations.

6. **Bruised by the Father** – **The Purpose of His Mission**

- **John 3:16-17** - Jesus came not to condemn the world but to save it.
- **Isaiah 53:3-5, 10** - The Servant is “despised,” “wounded,” and “bruised” for our sins.
- **John 10:18** - Jesus willingly laid down His life; no one takes it from Him.