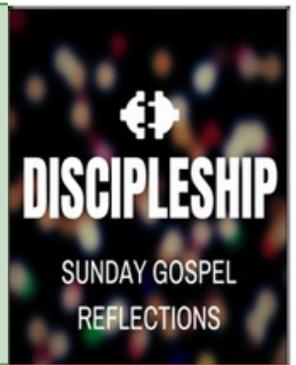


In preparation for March 29, 2026, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Theme -From Palm Branches to Crosses

“Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” And ‘Let him be crucified.’ ”

(Verses 21:9, 27:22) Matthew 21:1-11 and Matthew 26:14 – 27:66



Adults

1. The Passion narrative that we heard today, Palm Sunday, involves the congregation. In the passion narrative today, the congregation participates in the scripted parts of the reading. How does reciting the words “crucify him” impact you? Does it bring about feelings of denial...I would never be the one to say those words to my Lord. ~or~ does it bring a moment of realization that you may have been one of the bystanders yelling crucify him? What about other thoughts or emotions you may have had?
2. As you listened to the “Passion” reading today, did you find yourself identifying with anyone within the narrative? Pilate? Peter? Simon the Cyrenian? Mary Magdalene? One of the soldiers? One of the bystanders? Why?
3. Jesus shows us today on the cross that sin and death do not have the final word. Does this reality that the story does not end here bring you peace?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Not acknowledging that we are all part of Jesus’ death on the cross.

Teens

1. The crowd welcomed Jesus as a king, expecting political freedom, but He came to bring spiritual salvation. How might we sometimes misunderstand God’s plans for our lives, expecting one thing while He is working in a deeper or different way? Jesus enters Jerusalem fully aware that this was the beginning of His suffering and death. What does His courage teach us about trusting God in situations we fear or don’t understand?
2. The people shouted “Hosanna” and celebrated, but a week later some would turn against Him. How do you stay faithful to Jesus even when following Him is unpopular or difficult?
3. Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Have you ever faced pressure or temptation to take the easy way out? Peter denied Jesus three times. How do you respond when your faith or values are challenged by friends or fear? Why do you think Jesus doesn’t react with anger toward Judas or Peter? What does that teach us about God’s love?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Fear of rejection, ridicule, or standing alone can make us hesitate to follow Jesus faithfully, even when we know it’s the right thing to do.

Children

1. Why do you think so many people did not recognize Jesus as the Son of God? Why do you think it made them angry when people did?
2. When Pilate asked the people what he should do with Jesus, they cried to have him crucified. How often do we get caught up in the “crowd” in order to fit in? Share a time that you or someone you know did something in order to fit in and later regretted it. How did that make you feel? In what ways do we crucify Jesus today?
3. Jesus’ message was to love one another. Many people refer to Jesus’ teaching as “radical.” Why do you think it is so hard to love one another? What can you do to live out Jesus’ teaching at home, school or in your neighborhood?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Going along with others. Not seeking Jesus as King of your life.