

"Palm Sunday – A Harmony of the Gospels"
Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19
"Passion Week" Message Series
Pastor Paul Bartelme
New Vintage Church, West Allis



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Palm Sunday	Clearing out the Temple	Various Teachings	Upper Room Discourse	Good Friday	In a Tomb

Question: Do you read your _____? How often? What's your reading experience like?

There was this guy named Origen from the 3rd Century. The Latin term *Lectio Devina* was derived from the doctrine he popularized. He believed - and rightly so – that Jesus was _____ in the very Canon of Scripture (Jn 1:1, 14; Heb 4:12)!

St. John of the Cross provided some application behind this: "Seek in *READING* and you'll find in *MEDITATION*. Knock in *PRAYER* and it will be opened to you in _____. (Mt 7)"

- **CONTEMPLATION...** that's the goal! This word is in the context of intimate communion with transcendent God who traveled an infinite distance to this earth to rescue you – one of 7.49 billion people – from sin and to reconcile you unto Himself and reveal to you *a mystery...* CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY (Col 1:27)!

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Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it **and will send it back here shortly.**'"

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them, **outside in the street, tied at a doorway.**

As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They replied, "The Lord needs it," **and the people let them go.**

They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, a very large crowd of people spread their cloaks on the road, **while others spread branches they had cut in the fields.** When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, **those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the**

name of the Lord!" Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David the king of Israel! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

The whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

Palm Sunday in a Storybook Format

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Let's close with a couple of questions:

- 1. So what?

The people of Jesus' day did not recognize Him as the long-awaited Messiah who would deliver them from the bondage of sin and death.

Who do you say Jesus is? Be encouraged to circle one of the following options: Liar, Lunatic, or Lord

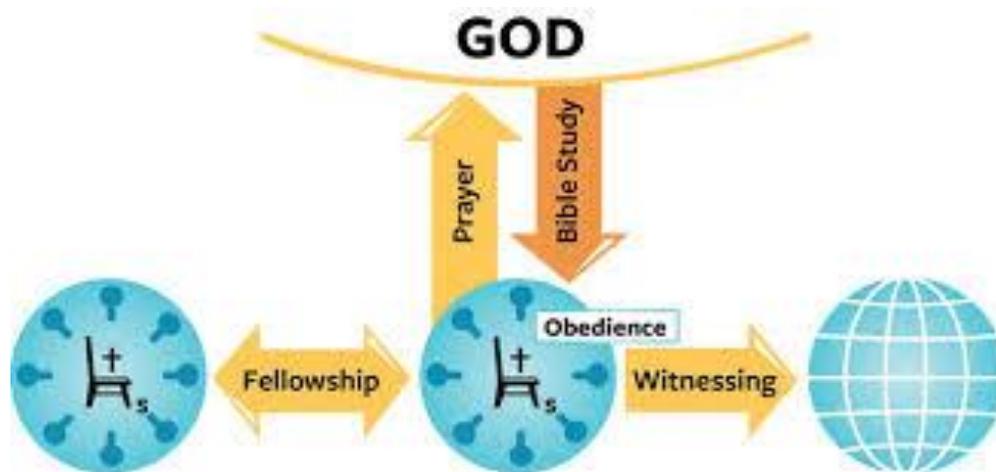
Have you heard of "Lewis' Trilemma"?

Lewis' Trilemma is an apologetic argument used to argue for the divinity of Jesus by arguing that the only alternatives were that he was evil or deluded. The argument shows that one cannot simultaneously affirm that Jesus was a great moral teacher and not divine.

It is best described as the "Lunatic, Liar, or Lord" argument. It takes the form of a trilemma — a choice between three options, each of which is in some way difficult to accept.

- 2. What's next?

Well, if you call Him "Lord", then be encouraged to cultivate the following disciplines:



Closing question: How exactly do you think your life will benefit from following through with these disciplines? Your marriage and family? Your job? Your church? Your community? _____

...for it is God who works in you to will (to have the desire) and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose (Phil 2:13).