

Palm Sunday: Countdown to Victory

Slide One – Text

John 12:12-19 “The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” *[Save]* “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!” (NIV)

- **Introduction**

- Palm Sunday gave us the countdown to the two most important events the world has ever experienced: **“THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST”**
- This starts what we know as the Passion Week which shows us the emotional and physical suffering Jesus went through on our behalf...showing His great love for us [WE MUST NEVER FORGET HOW MUCH HE LOVES US / Song from the past said “He loves us when we are right and He loves when we are wrong”]
- All of us need to remember at all times, not just during the season of Passover, what Christ did for us
- Think about it, we are no longer under the bondage of sin because of what took place during this week...

- John 12:1-11 gives us a picture of what takes place prior to Christ' entry into Jerusalem starting six days before the Passover
- He leaves Jericho and heads to Bethany to the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus
- Depending on who we read after it is about a 13-17 mile walk which was mostly uphill journey making it a difficult and tiring walk that took mostly all day

Slide Two – Map, Please make as big as possible



Key Cities are Jericho, Bethany, Mount of Olives, & Jerusalem

- He comes their home and they prepare a supper for Him [aren't we glad He loves to fellowship with His followers?]
- Judas, His betrayer, or enemy if we please, was there
- Mary comes and anoints His feet with spikenard, a class of aromatic amber-colored essential oil derived from a flowering plant in the honeysuckle family

Slide Three - Picture

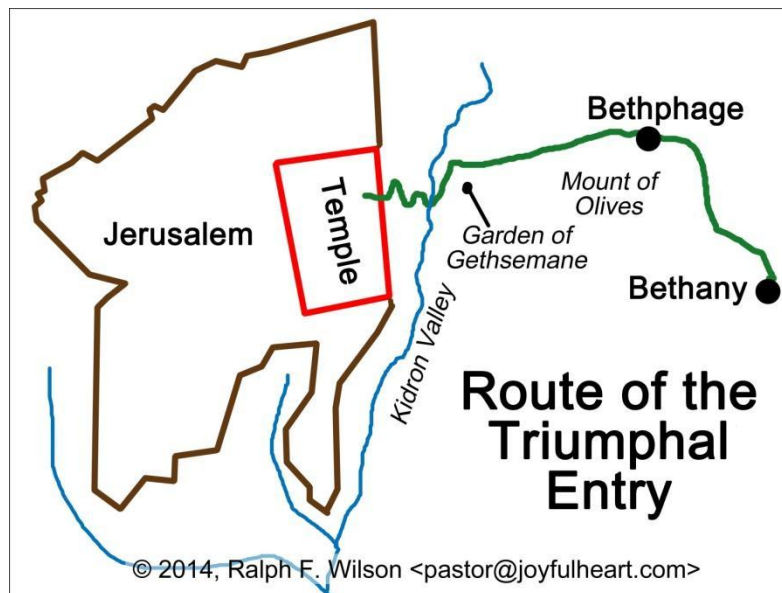


- Judas is irate saying it should have been sold for the poor but he was only interested in pocketing some of the money for himself because he was a thief
- When the Jews heard Jesus was there they come out in crowds to see Him but to also see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead
- As usual, the Chief Priests are angry at Jesus because the people believed on Him. Also, at Lazarus, because of him being brought back to life by Christ by Jesus the people believed in Him even more. This made the Chief Priests want to have them both killed

□ The Entry to Jerusalem

- They come to the Mount of Olives

Slide Four - Map, Please make as big as possible



- His disciples, at the request of Christ, go and get the donkey, along with the colt of the donkey
- Interesting to note that 500 years before this taking place Zechariah prophesied that this would take place

Slide Five – Scripture

Zechariah “Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” (NIV)

- They lay their garments on the colt, which is fitting of a King,
- In ancient days the colt was used as a beast of service to carry the burdens of men.
- When a king entered a city in peace, they rode a colt to symbolize their peaceful intentions
- Are we not glad that He gives us “PEACE”?
- Let’s try to set the scene:

Slide Six – Picture, Make as Big as possible



- ✓ The sun was rising rapidly. It was beginning to shoot its golden arrows across the horizon and curtain off the dawn that would bring a new day to the history-filled city of Jerusalem
- ✓ This is the festive season of the Passover, crowds, music, talking,
- ✓ The old city was filled with pilgrims, visitors, and travelers who had come from many countries to share in the feast

- ✓ Secular census records indicate there were at least 2,500,000 people in Jerusalem for the event [256.000 lambs were slain one for every 10 people]
- ✓ Amidst all the things going on in the city a rumor begins to create more excitement among the people, **“Jesus is coming” the man who raised Lazarus from the dead!**
- ✓ Let me pause right here, because we need to talking more among ourselves today, **“JESUS IS COMING SOON”** all we need to do is look at the Scriptures and the world today and all signs are putting for the trumpet to sound and the saints to go home to be with the Lord!
- ✓ The crowd did not wait on Him to enter Jerusalem they went out to meet Him with excitement crying

Slide Seven - Scripture

- ✓ **“Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.”** (Matthew 21:9)
- ✓ They were looking for their conqueror that would straighten out all of their problems
- ✓ **Question**, are we following Jesus for what He can give us or because we love Him for forgiving us?

□ This Starts the Countdown to the Moment the Curse of Sin Would be Defeated

- ✓ To get a good picture let’s go to the book Genesis and see that all was perfect until the fall of man happens by the temptation of the serpent
- ✓ Things look hopeless for creation but then a promise is given’

Slide Eight - Scripture

Genesis 3:15”....I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” (KJV)

- This is a direct reference to the day the serpent would be defeated by Seed of a woman...that Seed is none other than Jesus Christ
 - Remember, He went to the throne room of hell and came out with the keys of death, hell, and the grave
- ✓ **Let's jump to Abraham** / In Genesis 12:2-3 God made a promise to make him a great nation...**All families of the earth will be blessed through him.**” That blessing through Abraham’s lineage is none other than Jesus Christ
- ✓ We fast forward and find Abraham’s descendants...the tribe of Israel...enslaved in the land of Egypt...no hope of escaping their bondage...until the night God commanded each family to slay a lamb and sprinkle it’s blood on the door posts of their homes..and in doing so...their families were saved from the judgment of god poured out on the land of Egypt...pointing to day when the final lamb would be slain...whose blood would wash away the sin of man and save him from the wrath of God. **THE LAMB WAS NON OTHER THAN JESUS CHRIST**
- ✓ **Then there is the sacrificial system of the tabernacle, it was centered around the blood of animals**

Slide Nine - Scripture

Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”

- When the animal was sacrificed...and the blood was poured on the altar...it was the life of the animal for the life of the sinner
- The blood declared life to everyone it was shed for

Slide Ten – Scripture

Hebrews 9:22 “In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”

- They sprinkled blood on the utensils used in the tabernacle, on the tent itself, on the priests, Moses even took a branch of hyssop (a wild shrub)...dipped in the blood... and sprinkled it on the people
- In summary, the only way into the presence of God was by the shedding of blood
- These sacrifices were on temporary and had to be done over and over again
- But the day Jesus shed His blood we obtained:
 - ❖ Eternal life, eternal access into the presence of God, we can approach His throne boldly and make our requests known to Him
 - ❖ Our countdown is coming to the day we each stand before for ourselves
 - ❖ He will be our judge on whether we received Him as the only One who can save us from the wrath of God
 - ❖ The price was paid we must choose
 - ❖ His blood forever washes away our sins, never to be remembered no more [**NAILED TO THE CROSS, THROWN INTO THE SEA OF FORGETFULNESS**]

