

1. Today we celebrate Palm Sunday

This was no ordinary day, for on this day, Jesus would initiate a week that would forever change the course of history.

Read text Luke 19:28-44

Two things I would like to look at: The place and the purpose

The place was significant because it was prophesied

Zechariah had recorded this event some 400 years earlier.

In Zech 9:9 Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey--riding on a donkey's colt.

Jerusalem "the beloved city of David.

In Psalm 87:3, Jerusalem it is mentioned as the "City of God." In the book of Revelation we know it to be the City of Gold.

In Zech. 8:3, it is called the "City of Truth."

The question is: "Why is this city so special, and why did God set His affection upon the City of Zion, sweet Jerusalem?"

A. First, it would be the place where He would send His only Son to die for sinners:

1. The name Jerusalem means, "City of Peace." One would find it hard to believe that today, given the heartache and strife that is taking place in this very hour.

However, the reason Jerusalem is called the City of Peace in the Bible is because it is the place where God reconciled man to Himself.

1) How often have we heard the question, "Have you made your peace with God?" Man without God has no peace. Isa 48:22, "There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked."

From the time in the Garden of Eden, when Adam sinned against God, man has been at enmity with God. The death of Christ on the cross has removed that enmity and has replaced it with peace.

Eph 2:16, "And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby."

- a. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He knew he was on a mission of mercy. That's why the donkey peace

when he comes back He will be on a white horse....

B. Again, Jerusalem is the place from where Jesus will rule during the Millennial Kingdom:

1. Zech. 6:13, "Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."

There was an assortment of backgrounds represented on that day "there were the religious leaders, the Pharisees, the rich and poor, the common and the well to do.

1. Notice what the Jews said in (vs. 13), "Blessed is the KING OF ISRAEL, that cometh in the name of the Lord."

2. Throughout the Scriptures, God had promised to send a Redeemer and a Messiah to Israel. In Matthew 1:21, the Angel of the Lord said to Joseph concerning Mary, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE from their sins."

- a. Now He had come. It was Palm Sunday. . .the people shouted, "Hosanna, Hosanna, "save us, save us."

- b. Unfortunately, some of those same people in a few days, would be saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

The sad record of history is that Israel rejected her Messiah, and instead of receiving Him, they crucified Him. When Peter spoke to the Sanhedrin council in the book of Acts, he said,

"Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that. . .Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified. . .God raised from the dead." Acts 4:10

Thanks be to God that this mission would not stay in Jerusalem

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He spoke to His disciples, "And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8

Jerusalem was the place what is the purpose....

The Place..... the purpose.....

Jesus presents Himself as King..... Up till this point He has been somewhat discreet about it. But during this last week of His life, it is the unveiling of Jesus as King..... interesting..... no horse borrowed ass....

The way that Jesus comes..... we see the paradox of Jesus as King. Although he is king, he enters into Jerusalem on a Donkey.

In Jesus we see the King of an upside-down Kingdom.

That is because the gospel turns everything upside down.

It defines success in terms of giving, not taking; self-sacrifice, not self-protection;

going to the back, not getting to the front. It shows that we win by losing, we triumph through defeat, we achieve power through service, and we become rich by giving ourselves away.

This is what we read about in the Gospels. laying down our lives for others; serving instead of being served, seeking last place, not first.

Well, all of this ought to mold and shape the church at every point and in every way. For instance, when you understand that if you have Christ you have nothing to lose, it enables you to live a life of great sacrifice and generosity.

my story with Judah.....

Humility is key.....so much is accomplished

So as we see Jesus riding in to town He was like a lamb being led to the slater.... Isaiah 53:7..... to fulfill His mission

He came for you and for me. He came for the Jew and Gentile alike; He came to redeem mankind.

Jesus said it best....

1. Here's what He said, John 10:10, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

a. The Greek word for abundant (perissos) has the idea of "in the sense of beyond); superabundant (in quantity) or superior (in quality); by implication excessive." (STRONG'S CONCORDANCE)

It reminds us of Eph. 3:20, doesn't it? "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

Many people have the idea the abundant life can only be found in materialism, education and pleasure. This is the world's measure of what the abundant life is:

That's foolish. All of those things do not equal the abundant life.

Let me tell you what the abundant life is "Jesus and You!

Jesus came to give us him and more of him...

If You are saved you have life..... but is it full.....are you experiencing the fullness of your relationship with Christ.

It kind of reminds me of the following story. . .

A little boy who lived far out in the country in the late 1800s had reached the age of twelve and had never in all his life seen a circus. You can imagine his excitement, when one day a poster went up at school announcing that on the next Saturday a traveling circus was coming to the nearby town.

He ran home with the glad news and the question, "Daddy, can I go?" Although the family was poor, the father sensed how important this was to the lad. "If you do your Saturday chores ahead of time," he said, "I'll see to it that you have the money to go."

Come Saturday morning, the chores were done and the little boy stood by the breakfast table, dressed in his best clothes. His father reached down into the pocket of his overalls and pulled out a dollar bill--the most money the little boy had possessed at one time in all his life. The father cautioned him to be careful and then sent him on his way to town.

The boy was so excited; his feet hardly seemed to touch the ground all the way. As he neared the outskirts of the village, he noticed people lining the streets, and he worked his way through the crowd until he could see what was happening. Lo and behold, it was the approaching spectacle of a circus parade! The parade was the grandest thing this lad had ever seen. Caged animals snarled as they passed, bands beat their rhythms and sounded shining horns, midgets performed acrobatics while flags and ribbons swirled overhead.

Finally, after everything had passed where he was standing, the traditional circus clown, with floppy shoes, baggy pants, and a brightly painted face, brought up the rear. As the clown passed by, the little boy reached into his pocket and took out that precious dollar bill. Handing the money to the clown, the boy turned around and went home.

WHAT HAD HAPPENED? THE BOY THOUGHT HE HAD SEEN THE CIRCUS WHEN HE HAD ONLY SEEN THE PARADE!

Christian friend, the abundant life is seeing the circus, not just watching the parade. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

The tragedy in today's text is the people gathered here are lined up for a parade.....

the place is still important as well as the purpose

the place.....

Col 3:15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Have you made peace with God. there is only one way. it's through His son Jesus.

the purpose.....

Life and Life abundantly.....

He is more than a savior.....

His everything..... There is more.....this is reason to sing.....

Nothing tells Satan and his followers "you've lost" like the praises of God ringing in their ears.

Satan has lost because when God's people are really worshipping, their hearts and minds are on Him.