

March 28, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship

PALM SUNDAY
Our Gentle/Powerful Savior
Pastor Joe Brandi

Matthew 20:17-28

¹⁷ Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, ¹⁸ "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." ²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. ²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." ²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave - ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 21:1-13

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵ "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.'" ^[a] ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna ^[b] to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" ^[c] "Hosanna ^[d] in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

¹² Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³ "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer," ^[e] but you are making it 'a den of robbers.' ^[f]

Introduction: Chris the skater bully and Sammy the Hero Savior

1. We all want and need someone to save us from something stronger and bigger than ourselves.

21:9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "**Hosanna** ^[b] to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" ^[c] "**Hosanna** ^[d] in the highest heaven!"

21:15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "**Hosanna** to the Son of David," they were indignant.

The word **hosanna** (Latin osanna, Greek ὡσαννά, hōsanná) is from Hebrew הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא, הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא, hōšî'â-nā and related to Aramaic ܘܫܝܥܢܐ ('ōsha'nā) **meaning** 'save, rescue, savior'. In the Hebrew **Bible** it is used only in verses such as "help" or "save, I pray"

Why would the Jewish people shout this ? Rome

Why would children shout this? Rulers

When and why have you shouted “save me God?”

Has He always saved you in the way you wanted Him to on your time?

2. But we want God to save us WITH POWER AND PRESTIGE.

- The mother of Zebedee's sons wanted power of the kingdom.

3. But Jesus entered THE STORY to save us in His own way.

- He saves us through His death and resurrection.

- Do you realize we must die to ourselves to be like Jesus and serve others to show him in the world?

-To save us He had to drink the Fathers Cup of judgment in our place.

Jesus said to them, “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered. ²³ Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup,

Isn't it wonderfully terrible that Jesus had to take God's wrath for us?

- He came and focused time and attention on the Mount of Olives and later Gethsemane.

The name **Gethsemane** (Hebrew gat shemanim, “oil press”) suggests that the garden was a grove of olive trees in which was located an oil press.

- He came to save in humility, gentleness, and patience.

v5 “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.’”[a]

Do you experience GOD as being Gentle? How about the Father?

4. But He is not always gentle when He comes to save.

- He will come back to save us in strength entering our world on a war horse.

REVELATION 19:11 *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.”[a] He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.*

Small Group Questions

1. Have you ever attempted to gain power and control through manipulation like the mom in this passage? Describe and explain how and why you did this.
2. How do rulers normally rule according to Jesus' words? Have you experienced poor dominating leadership and describe? Why was it not empowering? Have you been called out as not being a servant leader like Jesus?
3. Why is it significant that Jesus wanted a donkey to enter the city?
4. Why would people shout “son of David” and throw their cloaks down and palm branches on the ground?
5. Why was there an anticipation for a king like David to come?
6. Why does Jesus cleanse the temple? Why was He so upset ?
7. How did Jesus save in His way rather than the way of the world?