

Lessons from Palm Sunday – March 20, 2024

Many people follow the crowd. We get it in line. Line can lead us astray. Following the crowd can lead to a road you don't want to walk.

Matt. 20:29-32 – “²⁹ Jesus was followed by a large crowd as he & his disciples were leaving Jericho. ³⁰ Two blind men were sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was coming their way, they shouted, “Lord and Son of David, have pity on us!” ³¹ The crowd told them to be quiet, but they shouted even louder, “Lord & Son of David, have pity on us!” ³² When Jesus heard them, he stopped & asked, “What do U want me to do for you?” ³³ They answered, “Lord, we want to see!” ³⁴ Jesus felt sorry for them & touched their eyes. At once they could see, & they became his followers.”

- If the 2 blind men had listened to the crowd, they'd still be blind.
- Jewish people expected the Messiah to be from the family of King David, so the Messiah was often called the “Son of David.”
 - o Those 2 blind men believed Jesus was the Messiah.

All 4 Gospels tell of Jesus entering Jerusalem. Palm Sunday.

(Matt. 21:1-11; [Mark 11.1-11](#); [Luke 19.28-38](#); [John 12.12-19](#))

Jesus stops at Mt. of Olives, sends 2 on to get a donkey. Jesus enters.

Those walking before & behind Jesus shouting:

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord”

“Praise God for the Son of David!” Much excitement!

Crowd: Who is this? It's Jesus, “the prophet from Nazareth.”

Matt, Mark & John note that many in the crowd took palm branches and spread them on the road . . . Shouting: *“Blessed is the King of Israel!”*

Luke 18 adds this: ³⁷ *When Jesus started down the Mount of Olives, his large crowd of disciples were happy & praised God because of all the miracles they had seen.” . . . ³⁹ Some Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, make your disciples stop shouting!”*

⁴⁰ *But Jesus answered, “If they keep quiet, these stones will start shouting.”*

- It's up to followers of Jesus to speak His praises.
- Plenty of voices will tell us to be quiet. No shouting. No praising. Pray

5 days later . . . Good Friday. Jesus arrested, before Pilate.

Matt. 27: 20-22 – “the leading priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death. ²¹ So the governor asked again, “Which of these two do you want me to release to you?” The crowd shouted back, “Barabbas!” ²² Pilate responded, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

PALM.

P – Praise. Give praises to God. Shout it in the street. Tell friends...

- If we – followers – don’t do it, who will? Stones? Birds?
 - **Psm 145:10** – “All You have made will thank You, LORD; the godly will praise You.”
- Be aware of only praising God when life is great. Praise in challenges.
 - Know He changes things. Good Friday is proof!

A – Affirm truth. . . . Affirm who Jesus is.

- He’s the Son of God, the Messiah, **Savior**. Not just prophet/Nazareth.
 - Emotion will stir you up, but lead you astray. Temporary.
 - Truth is logical, intellectual. Lasting, not fleeting.
 - Spiritual journey leads to truth. Build your life on that.

L – Led by the crowd . . . this is a warning to us.

- Don’t just follow the crowd. Jump on Bandwagon. **Conform.**
- Don’t be **sheeple** - blend *sheep* & *people*. Sheeple follow the majority
- **Rom. 12:2** – “*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*”
 - People will pull you away from Jesus. Lose closeness w/Him
 - You’ll lose yourself trying to please other people/ follow crowd.
 - In relationships where we lose ourselves? It happens.

M – Myself. My Palms.

- **Palms signify victory.** What Palms have I been waiving: I did, not God?
- What do I need to **lay down** so Jesus can enter? Burdens at His feet.
- Waive branches... **wave goodbye** to fears & doubts.
- Does Jesus need to reenter your city? close relationship w/ Jesus?

Song of the week – “In the Name of the Lord” by Sandi Patty.