

**April 5, 2020**  
**Rejoice! Your King is Coming!**  
*Palm Sunday*

Scripture reading: Luke 19:28-40

Text: *“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18-19 NIV).*

Jesus, the Lord of lords and King of kings, was serving among His people in Israel. There were those who accepted Him as Lord and Messiah. However, there were those who were skeptical and had doubts about Jesus’ identity or just observed Him from a distance. Additionally, there were those who did not accept Him at all and would never accept Him because of their rock-hard conviction.

It is so interesting how people were thinking about Jesus at that time. At that time? We may say that people have similar approaches to Jesus today, too. There are those who accept Christ as Lord and Savior. However, there are those who have doubts or want to find out who He really was, or there are many who reject Him. In addition to all this, there are those who first worship Him and then, for some reason, reject Him and turn their back on Him. We may find similar approaches to Jesus in our Palm Sunday story, too.

The story starts with Jesus headed to Jerusalem where He fulfills the salvation plan of His Father. Christ was traveling with a large number of followers. The roads were crowded with pilgrims going up to Jerusalem for a great event in the life of Israel, the Passover.

When Jesus came near Jerusalem He gave specific instructions to two of His disciples to go to the village ahead of them and bring Him a colt which no one has ever ridden. If anyone asks them why they untie the colt they had to say, *“The Lord needs it” (v.34)*. The disciples obeyed the Jesus’ instructions even though it sounded strange and unrealistic. They did not ask any questions, did not argue about it, and did not say, *“Jesus it doesn’t make any sense”*. It might cross their minds and think of it, but they obeyed the Lord.

The interesting thing in all this was that the disciples found everything the way the Lord told them. The disciples brought the colt to Jesus and *“threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it” (35.v.)*.

The pilgrims, who came for the great holiday of Passover, have already heard about Jesus and that He is near Jerusalem. So they went out to see Him. Most of them have already heard about how He raised Lazarus from the dead. The

news about Him spread quickly. The people were so eager to see the person who was able to perform such miracles.

That day, when the Messiah of Israel entered into the Holy City, was a day of excitement and jubilation. It was so special. The disciples and the people of Jerusalem were rejoicing as they welcomed the new King. More and more people were spreading their cloaks and palm branches on the road, and were singing and rejoicing.

The triumphal entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem was really the day of joy and happiness. The people there were rejoicing for Jesus who came in the name of the Lord *“to proclaim good news to the poor... to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Lk.4:18-19).*

On this day the Lord also exhorts us to rejoice. We all need joyful days in our lives. There are many-many things in our lives that make us unhappy and rob us of our joy. Especially it is true in this time that is filled with fear and worries, when we don’t know the way out, and moreover things get worse and scarier around us each day.

The good news, however, is that God gives us times to rejoice in spite of the circumstances we all go through. Rejoicing and pain, worries may co-exist in our lives. They were there in Jesus at the triumphal entry.

However, this is one of the days that we may choose to be joyful by the grace of God. The Word of God encourages you to *“rejoice greatly...Shout...! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle...” (Zach.9:9).* Christ comes close to you with His love in order to bless your life, to bring you healing to your emotional and physical wounds and pains. He comes close to you by His Spirit to calm your surging or fearful hearts. He encourages you to trust in Christ and comforts you when you lose heart. Let the Lord Jesus work in you by His Holy Spirit.

Let us rejoice today for our King, Jesus Christ who came to us so we may find joy in Him! He is our Messiah, our Savior. He is worthy for our praise and worship. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
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