



Hosanna

Untied to be Used

Prayer:

Dear God we adore you and give thanks for the ways you have blessed our lives. Thank you for being a promise keeper and a covenant maker. Please help us to live faithfully as covenant people. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen

Connect to God:

Where have you seen God at work in your life this week?

Connect to Neighbor:

What good have you done for someone else this week?

Connect to Scripture: Luke 19:28-40

28 After Jesus said this, he continued on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.
Procession into Jerusalem
29 As Jesus came to Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he gave two disciples a task. 30 He said, "Go into the village over there. When you enter it, you will find tied up there a colt that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying it?' just say, 'Its master needs it.'" 32

Those who had been sent found it exactly as he had said.

33 As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

34 They replied, "Its master needs it." 35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their clothes on the colt, and lifted Jesus onto it. 36 As Jesus rode along, they spread their clothes on the road.

37 As Jesus approached the road leading down from the Mount of Olives, the whole throng of his disciples began rejoicing. They praised God with a loud voice because of all the mighty things they had seen. 38 They said,

"Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens."

39 Some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, scold your disciples! Tell them to stop!"

40 He answered, "I tell you, if they were silent, the stones would shout."

Connect Text in Context:

Jesus has traveled about 60 miles from Galilee to Bethpage and Bethany about two miles outside of Jerusalem. Jesus decides to stop. Last week, we learned from the gospel of John that Jesus attends a party that Mary and Martha throw in his honor to celebrate Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Mary anoints Jesus with expensive spiced oil. Jesus knows that there is a price on his head. The religious elites want him dead because Jesus is becoming too popular with the people, and they fear they will

lose power and the people might rebel against Rome.

Jesus commands to disciples to go into a village and untie a colt that has never been ridden. If Jesus' goal was to avoid capture and death, he could have quietly slipped into the city with a few disciples. Jesus knew he would face conflict and the cross by riding into the city triumphantly. Why does Jesus do this?

To fulfill the prophecy about the Messiah and to reveal himself to the people in Jerusalem. Jesus was making a statement about who he was to the people of Jerusalem. By this time, Jesus is ready to go public with what had been private. He was ready to reveal that he is the chosen one, the Messiah, the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords. He makes this statement about who is in an unconventional way. He decides to ride in on a donkey instead of a warhorse. He decides to ride in on an animal that symbolized peace, not war!

According to John some people cut down palm branches and met Jesus on the road. Palm branches were used 2 centuries before Jesus' entry by the people who celebrated the victory of Judah the Maccabee in his victory over the Greco-Macedonian oppressors. The palms were also a powerful symbol of victory over oppression

By waving the palms upon Jesus entry into Jerusalem, the people were announcing their belief that their King is here to overthrow Rome - thus they shouted: "Hosanna" which means - "save us" or as "God save us"

The spreading of their garments on the pathway is appropriate to greeting a royal figure.

Jesus rode in on a donkey instead of the Mercedes Benz Popemobile, instead of the Cadillac presidential motorcade, instead of a solid gold caddy like Elvis, instead of a horse-drawn carriage adorned with gold. That is not how a king is supposed to act right?

People were expecting Jesus to come wage war against the oppressive Roman regime, isn't that what King Arthur or King Henry the V would do? Michael Jackson the king of pop would at least

engage them in a war of dance moves to show who's bad.

Jesus is followed by a multitude of disciples down to Jerusalem and they shouted as he entered the city. It was a parade!

Connect to Practice:

If the disciples asked you for your donkey, an animal that is a source of transportation and labor. What would you have said? The donkey was like the modern-day truck. Many of us would say, no if someone asked us to borrow our truck. In a previous church Brother Donald Jones told me that if you have a truck, you never have to worry about going hungry! The owners asked why the disciples were taking the donkey and they answered the Lord needs it. In other words, the Lord had a purpose for the donkey. The keywords were "the Lord" with the "Lord comes authority". Have you ever watched a movie where the cops or FBI is chasing the bad guy on foot but then the bad guy takes a car and then the good guy flashes his badge, and a motorist gives them the car to continue the chase? It's about authority. You see King Jesus spoke the word that the disciples needed to get the donkey. The disciples applied the word they had been given by the Lord to receive the donkey. The Lord, the King, has authority over his kingdom. Everything in the kingdom belongs to him anyway. What Jesus wants today is your heart.

Connect Heads:

Define the word “king” in your own words.

The people waved their palms, what are some ways we can announce our belief that the king is coming?

Is there a particular insight that you would like to share from the sermon, from the scripture, or from the small group curriculum?

Connect Heart:

Share a time when you let someone use something of value because you believed that the Lord had need of it. What did you learn about God? Yourself? Others?

Share a time when someone gave you something of value to put to use for Godly purposes. What did you learn about God? Yourself? Others?

Who you most identify with in the scripture: Jesus, the disciples, religious elites, or the crowd? Why?

Connect Hands:

Did you cause harm in word or deed to someone this week? (self-examination). If so, confess your sin to God, then seek to reconcile with your brother or sister.

Share your prayer concerns and celebrations.

Ask a member of the group to pray for the concerns and give thanks for the celebrations.

Notes Sections

Prayer Concerns:

Celebrations:

Daily Reflection Questions

Where have I seen God at work in my life today?

What is one thing that I am thankful for?

What is one thing that broke my heart today?

What is one good thing did I do for someone else today?