

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**“The Countdown Begins”**  
Luke 19:28–40

**The events of the original Palm Sunday triggered the countdown to the greatest week of Earth’s history since Creation. Greatest. Week. Ever.**

*After He had said these things, He was going on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When He approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you; there, as you enter, you will find a colt tied on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of it.’” So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They said, “The Lord has need of it.” They brought it to Jesus, and they threw their coats on the colt and put Jesus on it. As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road. As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, shouting: “BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” But Jesus answered, “I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!”*  
—Luke 19:28-40

**Bible Quiz**

- A. According to the Gospels, the people waved palm branches when Jesus rode into Jerusalem. (**False**)
- B. The date of Jesus’ triumphal entry—five days before Passover—was a special holiday in His time. (**True**)
- C. By their actions, the people were publicly proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah. (**True**)
- D. The shouts of “Hosanna!” meant “Praise the Lord!” (**False**)
- E. The shouts of “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” were words from a Jewish hymn. (**True**)

**1. Are We All Clueless?**

We celebrate Palm Sunday because we remember that Jesus chose this road to Jerusalem knowing it meant **His own death**.

*Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. “For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again.” But the disciples understood none of these things, and the meaning of this statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.*

—Luke 18:31–34

All our worries, our concerns, our cares, will become just a blip in our personal histories when we take our eyes off the **horizontal** and focus on the **vertical**.

Palm Sunday reminds us that God has not forgotten us. He remembers that our deepest problem and deepest need is to get **rid of the root** of our problems.

## 2. **A Colt**

They gave up a valuable mode of transportation and means of making a living—all because they heard the words, “**The Lord has need of it.**”

What are we **giving up** so that others can celebrate the coming of God’s kingdom? You and I each have things in our lives, which, **if given back to God**, could, like the colt, move Jesus and His message further down the road.

## 3. **The Crowd**

They may have been clueless when it came to the type of king they were looking for, but they **nailed it** when it came to worship and praise.

“Jesus puts this demonstration in motion to move everything toward His own crucifixion on Friday because that’s the day when the Passover lambs were slain, and that’s the day He would be slain as the true and only Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

—John MacArthur

*you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

—1 Peter 2:5, 9

*Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!*

—Psalm 150:6

You are what you **worship**. You become like what you **worship**.

*They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.*  
—Jeremiah 2:5 (NIV)

- If you worship **superficial** things, your life becomes **superficial**.
- If you worship **perverted** things, your life becomes **perverted**.
- If you worship **evil** things, your life becomes **evil**.
- If you worship the **true God**, you become **godly**.

Praise defeats **our enemy**. Our praise sends **evil packing**.

*From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength  
Because of Your adversaries, To make the enemy and the revengeful cease.*  
—Psalm 8:2

*Let the godly ones exult in glory; Let them sing for joy on their beds. Let the  
high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand*  
—Psalm 149:5–6

“When we, God’s people, come into His presence with thanksgiving and praise,  
warfare is waged against our enemies, and our battles are won by the  
supernatural power of God.”  
—Darlene Zschech, **Extravagant Worship**

Praise calls **others** to God.

*He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and  
fear And will trust in the LORD.*  
—Psalm 40:3

How do we praise God?

1. With a **loud voice**.
2. With **my body**.
3. With **music**.
4. With our **entire lives**.

*Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of  
God.*  
—1 Corinthians 10:31

*“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

—John 4:23–24

What are **expressions** of worship?

- **Singing** (Ephesians 5:19)
- **Thanksgiving** (Ephesians 5:20)
- **Submission** to one another (Ephesians 5:21)
- **Gladness** (Psalm 100:2)
- **Knowledge** of God (Psalm 100:3)
- **Acknowledgement** of God’s love and faithfulness (Psalm 100:5)
- **Praying** (Ephesians 6:18)
- **Baptism** (Romans 6:3-4)
- **Lord’s Supper** (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
- **Meditation** (Hebrews 3:1)
- **Giving** (1 Corinthians 16:1,2)
- **Hearing** the Word (Colossian 3:16)
- **A heart** that is clean (Hebrews 10:22)

Worship is not just **Sunday morning**. Worship is a **lifestyle**.

## APPLICATION

**When Jesus set out to ride that donkey into Jerusalem, He demonstrated that God heard the cry to save us.**

Palm Sunday teaches us that Jesus loves the response of praise and worship by His people. So, let’s not keep quiet because we’re clueless. Let’s open our eyes to what God is doing through us and through others right now. Let’s focus our eyes upward to Him instead of just within our selfish lives.

Let’s examine ourselves and ask, what is God calling me to do for Him today? What ties to this world need to be undone so that I can carry Jesus wherever I go? What is God asking you in your heart to do right now?

And let us never, ever, ever, stop praising Him. Praise Him with your words, praise Him with your actions, praise Him with your whole life. The countdown has started. Where will you be at the final event?

PALM SUNDAY, "The Countdown Begins," April 9, 2017

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All verses from the New American Standard unless otherwise noted.