



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Grace for the World!

Focus Verse: John 12:19 - The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

Lesson Text: Mark 11:1-11; John 12:19

Truth About God: God's grace extends to everyone, regardless of what we have to give.

Truth For My Life: I will follow Jesus.

Before Jerusalem, Jesus prophesied His own death (Mark 10:33-34). After three years of journey with Jesus, those closest to Him still did not comprehend fully that His heavenly Kingdom was about sacrifice and servanthood, not personal gain and political positioning. After this verbal reminder from Jesus to His disciples that His purpose was to serve without expecting anything in return. As He had so many times before, Jesus paused His journey and laid aside His agenda, asking Bartimaeus what he wanted, *"The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way"* (Mark 10:51-52).

As Jesus and His disciples made their way into Jerusalem, two of the disciples retrieved a donkey for Jesus to ride on into the city. The choice to ride a donkey speaks of the humility of Christ and another lesson of servanthood He was teaching those closest to Him. The crowd laid coats and waved palm branches in worship and cried, *"Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest"* (Mark 11:9-10). We have come to identify the crowd's response on that day as **"Palm Sunday."** Part of worshiping Christ is to show we are willing to lay aside or even sacrifice those things that make us secure here on earth, and we are willing to put all our trust and confidence in the Lord.

While the crowd adoringly worshiped Jesus, some of the Pharisees emerged and expressed their outrage. In fact, they wanted Jesus to rebuke the crowd! (Luke 19:39-40). They understood the significance of the words spoken by those who had been following Jesus. They were declaring His lineage in the kingdom of David. They were crying for Jesus to save them. This could only mean one thing: the crowd believed Jesus was their Messiah. This was dangerous to the religious rulers of the day, who were seeking desperately to discredit Jesus and retain their positions of power.

Jesus was willing to engage people who represented every social demographic with grace, warmth, and compassion. He was far less concerned with the comfort of His disciples and far more interested in touching the broken and hurting. His habit was to move among the crowd, engaging those who were blind, could not walk, or were of ill repute. Jesus willingly responded to every level of need He encountered.

In Western culture, it is easy to become consumed with our routines of working a job, living in comfortable homes, eating decent meals, and seeing our basic needs met. How much do we make ourselves approachable to those who are destitute, troubled, hungry, or needy? When we follow after Jesus, we may find ourselves in situations where we are uncomfortable. God is giving each of us a challenge. When He saves us from our own brokenness, we are invited to a path of servanthood. Everyday is an opportunity to follow His example.

The significance of this moment in the story of Jesus is profound. The worship of the crowd and the power of miraculous testimonies created a tipping point. It was evident many were choosing to follow Jesus, and the Pharisees recognized their attempts to discredit the ministry of Jesus had proven futile. While **Palm Sunday** was a beautiful and victorious day of worship, it should also remind us of the humility of Christ and a day in history that inevitably set into motion Jesus' one-way journey to the cross.

When Jesus demonstrates His miraculous power in our lives, our response should be to worship and to follow Him. If we truly believe the revelation of Jesus as God, we will not stay the same or linger back in our old patterns and habits. The work of Jesus in our lives should compel us to put our trust and security in Him. We should use whatever we find in our hands to exalt Him.

Our lives should be set on a path to follow Him, no matter what others may believe or do.