

The Tears of Palm Sunday

John 12:1 - Jesus Anointed at Bethany – *12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.*

- *Dinner was given in Jesus' honor... **Martha** served... Vs2*
- ***Mary** took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet... and wiped them with her hair. Vs3 (About a year's wages)*
- ***Judas** Iscariot, who was later to betray him, **objected!!!** Vs4*
- *Sell the perfume and give to the poor? Vs5 **He was a thief** he didn't care.*

John 12:12-13 - Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King (on a donkey) - ¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ ***They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!"*** – (A Hebrew expression meaning "Save!" which became an exclamation of praise!) ***"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"*** – "Blessed is the king of Israel!"

Theme of Psalm 118 – ***Confidence in God's eternal love. God's love is unchanging in the midst of changing situations. This gives us security.***

Psalm 118:25-26 - ²⁵ ***Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success!*** ²⁶ ***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.***

Psalm 118:24 - *This is the day the Lord has made; **We will rejoice** and be glad in it.*

There are days when **the last thing we wish to do is rejoice.**

- Our **mood is down**, **our situation is out of hand**, and **our sorrow or guilt is overwhelming.**
- **We can relate to the writers of the psalms who often felt this way.**
- **No matter how low** the writers felt, they were **always honest with God.** And as they talked to God, **their prayers ended in praise.**
- **When you don't feel like rejoicing, tell God** how you truly feel.
- You will find that **God will give you a reason to rejoice.**

Luke 19:41-44 - Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem - ⁴¹ When Jesus came closer and could see Jerusalem, **he cried** ⁴² and said: It is too bad that today your people don't know what will bring them peace! Now it is hidden from them.

⁴³ Jerusalem, the time will come when your enemies will build walls around you to attack you. Armies will surround you and close in on you from every side. ⁴⁴ They will level you to the ground and kill your people. Not one stone in your buildings will be left on top of another. This will happen **because you did not see that God had come to save you.** *(This happened in A.D. 66) Romans killed 600,000 jews.*

- The Jewish leaders had **rejected their King**, they had gone **too far**.
- They had **refused God's offer of salvation** in Jesus Christ when **they were visited by God himself**, and soon their nation **would suffer**.
- **Eternal life is within your reach—accept it while the opportunity is still offered.**

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The Tears of Palm Sunday

PALM SUNDAY – Jesus begins His journey to the cross.....

- Today is what many call Palm Sunday...

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter. This religious holiday commemorates **the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem** in the **days before his crucifixion.**

The people cried out, **Hosanna: “Save us!” - Which became a praise!!!**

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” – “Blessed is the king of Israel!”

It was a common custom in many lands in the ancient Middle East **to cover**, in some way, **the path of someone thought worthy of the highest honor with branches and leaves.**

All of the Gospel's report that **people gave Jesus this honor.** In **Mark, Matthew, and Luke** they reported laying **their garments and cut branches** on the street.

John is the only Gospel to specifically mention palm branches.

- The palm branch was a symbol of triumph and victory.

Because of this, the detail of the palm branches and the scene of the crowd greeting Jesus as he entered Jerusalem by waving palm branches, and carpeting his path with them, **has given the day its name. Palm Sunday**

The prophecy often quoted as having been fulfilled by the Triumphal Entry reads as follows:

Zechariah 9:9 - The Coming of Zion's King - ⁹Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

- Predicted more than **500 years before** it happened...

TODAY I WANT TO TAKE YOU, PAST THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY... TO THE "TEARS OF PALM SUNDAY"

In Verse 41, We find Jesus weeping over Jerusalem.

A. In Verse 41, it says..."He beheld the city."

- He looked at **Beautiful Jerusalem**, the breathtaking view.
- The pomp and pageantry of the festival and the occasion
- He looked at the splendor and awe...

B. But Jesus saw beyond the outward appearance of things.

- HE Saw **BEYOND THE facade** of that city...and the people.
- **Beyond** the pomp and pageantry of the festival and celebration!

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1. <i>Jesus saw beyond the outward appearance...</i>

What He sees makes Him weep. He sees the spiritual condition of the city and his people...

- He wept, because the people did not understand the significance of what was going on that day...
- They **did not** understand who He was, or why He came to earth.
- It was His people that rejected Him and crucified Him.

I believe that sometimes Jesus looks at our lives, and weeps and
Sometimes He is grieved...

Because of our spiritual condition also...

- That we reject Him, or don't give Him our all.
- That we would rather live for self, than live for Him.
- That we would rather be selfish, instead of selfless.
- ***That we would rather live for the world, than live for His Kingdom.***

****** I wonder if He is grieved at what He sees in our life today???***

Jesus sees beyond the outward appearance of things.
Man looks outwardly, But God looks inside.

He sees beyond the outward in our lives.

- The **facade** that hides inward sin
- The **smile** that hides inward tears.
- The **face** that hides inward pain

I want you to know, He not only sees beyond the outward...

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2. JESUS CARES ABOUT OUR PAIN

- (v. 41) "He beheld the city... ***and wept over it.***"

Jesus' primary concern, was over their sin and rejection!

Did you know that sin brings pain?

- From **the first sin** in the Garden of Eden
- Every act of disobedience brings pain.
- Sin has negative consequences: **guilt, shame,**
- **The soul that sins**, will surely die.

***If you think you are getting away with sin???* You're Not! He Knows...**

We cannot sin and win.

Repentance is **TURNING AWAY FROM SIN** and turning to God.

CS Lewis: Pain is not good in itself. ***What is good in any painful experience is***, for the sufferer, his submission to the will of God, and, for the spectators, the compassion aroused and the acts of mercy to which it leads.

He sees beyond the outward appearance; **HE CARES ABOUT OUR PAIN-**

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3. JESUS KNOWS OUR FULL POTENTIAL
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(v. 42) "If you, even you, had only known... "

Oh, What Jerusalem might have been:

- The city of blessing
- Instead, it has become a city of war and grief.
- What potential for the city of God...

***** I want you to know today...Jesus knows your full potential**

- He doesn't look at what you are,
- As much as He looks at what you can become, with His help!

The saddest words ever spoken or even written are these:

- "It might have been" I could have been/done.
- He knows what you can achieve.
- Don't underestimate Him!!!!
- God sees what you can become...
- He sees your potential.

***** I wonder today, have you blown it? Sinned? Made a mistake?**

Fallen Short?

On New Year's Day, 1929, **Georgia Tech played University of California** in the Rose Bowl. In that game a man named Roy Riegels recovered a fumble for California. ***Somehow, he became confused and started running 65 yards in the wrong direction.***

One of his teammates, Benny Lom, outdistanced him and downed him just before he scored for the opposing team. When California attempted to punt, Tech blocked the kick and scored a safety which was the ultimate margin of victory.

That strange play came in the first half, and **everyone who was watching the game was asking the same question:**

"What will Coach Nibbs Price do with Roy Riegels in the second half?"

The men filed off the field and went into the dressing room. They sat down on the benches and on the floor, all but Riegels. He put his blanket around his shoulders, sat down in a corner, put his face in his hands, and cried like a baby.

If you have played football, you know that a coach usually has a great deal to say to his team during half time. That day Coach Price was quiet. No doubt he was trying to decide what to do with Riegels. Then the timekeeper came in and announced that there were three minutes before playing time.

Coach Price looked at the team and said simply, ***"Men the same team that played the first half will start the second."*** The players got up and started out, all but Riegels. He did not budge. The coach looked back and called to him again; still he didn't move. ***Coach Price went over to where Riegels sat and said, "Roy, didn't you hear me?"*** The same team that played the first half will start the second."

Then Roy Riegels looked up and his cheeks were wet with a strong man's tears. "Coach," he said, "I can't do it to save my life. **I've ruined** you; **I've ruined** the University of California, **I've ruined** myself. I couldn't face that crowd in the stadium to save my life."

Then Coach Price reached out and put his hand on Riegel's shoulder and said to him: ***"Roy, get up and go on back; the game is only half over."*** And Roy Riegels went back, and those Tech men will tell you that they have never seen a man play football as Roy Riegels ***played that second half.***

******Some of you need to get up and play like you never have before...***

God has a great future ahead for us...Amen?

A great future beats, a great past every time!!!!

- 1. He sees beyond the outward appearance,**
- 2. HE CARES ABOUT OUR PAIN,**
- 3. HE KNOWS YOUR FULL POTENTIAL**

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And lastly today.....

4. JESUS DESIRES TO GIVE US PEACE IN OUR LIVES

(v. 42) *“this day what would bring you peace”*

- Peace! What a great word it is! Peace!!!
- Worlds and governments chase after it... Peace!
- Jerusalem - means city of peace

But war for Jerusalem was waiting in the wings (vv. 43, 44) ...

- Titus and fulfillment of this prophecy
- Because God’s People had rejected Him...

Jesus came to His disciples and spoke these words...

John 14:26-28 - ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

²⁸ “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

The result of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives is deep and lasting peace.

- With Christ’s peace we have no need to fear the present or the future
- If your life is full of stress, allow the Holy Spirit to fill you with Christ’s Peace...

***Jesus wants us to have Peace in our lives...

Only the type of peace He can give!!!

Charles Wesley writes:

I rest beneath the Almighty's shade, My griefs expire, my troubles cease; Thou, Lord, on whom my soul is stayed, Wilt keep me still in perfect peace.

Safety consists not in the absence of troubles... but in the presence of God.

You see... Peace that Jesus gives ***is not the absence of trouble, But is rather the confidence that He is there with you always.***

In 1555, Nicholas Ridley was burned at the stake because of his witness for Christ.

On the night before **Ridley's execution**, his brother offered to remain with him in the prison chamber to be of assistance and comfort.

Nicholas declined the offer and replied that he meant to go to bed and sleep as quietly as ever he did in his life.

******Because he knew the peace of God, he could rest in the strength of the everlasting arms of his Lord to meet his need. So can we!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***

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Close: Luke 19 – The Jewish leaders had rejected their King; they had gone too far...

They had refused God's offer of salvation in Jesus Christ when they were visited by God himself, and soon their nation would suffer.

He continues to offer salvation to the people that he loves, both Jews and Gentiles.

Eternal life is within your reach – accept it while the opportunity is still offered...

We find Jesus weeping over Jerusalem!

- ***Jesus saw beyond the outward appearance.***
- **JESUS CARES ABOUT OUR PAIN.**
- **JESUS KNOWS OUR FULL POTENTIAL.**
- **JESUS DESIRES TO GIVE US PEACE IN OUR LIVES.**

He sees the spiritual condition of the city and his people...

He sees beyond the outward appearance, He Cares About Our Pain.