

The Challenges Before the Resurrection



Jn. 12:12-16

Jn. 12:12 On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

13 **Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed *is* the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

14 And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; **as it is written,**

15 Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.

16 **These things understood not his disciples at the first:** but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and *that* they had done these things unto him.

The passage today reveals the event known as “Palm Sunday,” that happened one week before the Resurrection. In one week the disciples’ world would be turned upside down. The “Coronavirus” has turned our world upside down. Both events have similar elements: fear, confusion, misunderstandings, heartaches, difficult times, discouragements, despair, and a myriad of other challenges. This morning we will focus upon the disciples and...

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While preparing for the “Passover,” many in Jerusalem heard of the arrival of Jesus and began to cry out, “Hosanna: Blessed *is* the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.”

Original Word: ὡσαννά

Transliteration: hósanna

Definition: save, we pray

Usage: (Aramaic and Hebrew, originally a cry for help), hosanna!, a cry of happiness. <https://biblehub.com/greek/5614.htm>

The crowd was casting the palm leaves, and perhaps many understood the fulfillment of prophecy:

Zech. 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; **shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he *is* just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.**

But the disciples did not fully understand the magnitude of the occasion. Perhaps too many people around the world right now do not understand the magnitude of COVID-19.

I. THE DISCIPLES LACKED CLARITY

Jn. 12:16 **These things understood not his disciples at the first:** but when Jesus was glorified, **then remembered they** that these things were **written of him**, and *that* they had done these things unto him.

Mark 9:31 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, **The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.**

32 But **they understood not that saying**, and were afraid to ask him.

A. The Disciples Did Not Understand the Lessons Taught – “For he taught his disciples...” (Mark 9:31a)

- ❖ Having close fellowship with the Lord did not guarantee total understanding.
- ❖ Lack of clarity is NOT an indication of lack of spirituality.
- ❖ How many lessons have we missed?

B. The Disciples Did Misunderstand the Little Things

Mt. 16:6 Then Jesus said unto them, **Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**

7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, *It is* because we have taken no bread.

8 *Which* when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

9 Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

10 Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

11 **How is it that ye do not understand** that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

12 **Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine** of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

- ❖ From our perspective, the disciples constantly overlooked the obvious.
- ❖ From heaven's perspective, we are constantly overlooking the obvious.

Jer. 5:21 **Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding;** which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:

Eph. 1:18 **The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know** what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

II. THE DISCIPLES LACKED COMPASSION

Mt. 26:6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of **Simon the leper,**

7 There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat *at meat*.

8 But **when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?**

9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

10 When Jesus understood *it*, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.

11 For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.
(Deut. 15:11)

12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, **she did it for my burial.**

13 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, *there* shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

A. The Disciples Were Unduly Indignant

Mt. 26:8 But **when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?**

Deut. 15:11 For **the poor shall never cease out of the land**: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

B. The Disciples Were Unreasonably Influenced

- ❖ Worship or Waste?
- ❖ The disciples were critical due to the influence of the traitor, Judas Iscariot.

Jn. 12:4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

6 **This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief,** and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

❖ Jesus accepted the worship of a woman that the disciples considered a waste.

Mt. 26:12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, **she did it for my burial.**

❖ The disciples, again, overlooked the obvious, missing a spiritual event that Jesus said would be spoken around the world.

Mt. 26:13 Verily I say unto you, **Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.**

III. THE DISCIPLES LACKED COURAGE

Mark 14:50 And **they all forsook him, and fled.**

Mt. 26:56 But all this was done, that **the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.**

A. The Disciples were Overconfident

Jn. 13:37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? **I will lay down my life for thy sake.**

38 Jesus answered him, **Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake?** Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

B. The Disciples were Offended

Mt. 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, **All ye shall be offended because of me this night**: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

32 But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

33 Peter answered and said unto him, **Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.**

❖ Shallow professions too often produce thin-skinned weaklings.

Mt. 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for **when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.**

IV. THE DISCIPLES LEARNED CHRIST

Jn. 12:16 **These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him,** and *that* they had done these things unto him.

A. The Disciples Remembered the Scriptures

Luke 24:6 He is not here, but is risen: **remember** how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

8 **And they remembered his words,**

❖ The Scriptures strengthen the weak and weary believer.

Isa. 26:3 **Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*:** because he trusteth in thee.

B. The Disciples Repented from their Sins

Mt. 26:75 And **Peter remembered the word of Jesus**, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And **he went out, and wept bitterly.**

1 Jn. 1:9 **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just **to forgive us** *our* sins, and **to cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.

Psa. 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

C. The Disciples Returned to the Saviour

Jn. 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when **the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews**, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you. 20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. **Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.**

❖ Fear departs when the Lord Jesus brings peace to the troubled heart.

Conclusion

The “Triumphal Entry” of Christ into Jerusalem brought joy to the people. When Christ has made the “triumphal entry” into a sinner’s heart, He brings “joy unspeakable and full of glory” to that person’s life.

1 Pet. 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, **ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:**

7 That **the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 **Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:**

9 Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.

Jn. 15:11 **These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.**