

## **PALM SUNDAY**

6 April 2025

### **Summary:**

This Message focuses on the significance of Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and culminating in Easter. It emphasizes the importance of preparing our hearts and minds for this sacred time, encouraging believers to move beyond superficial faith and fully engage with the profound journey of Jesus from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his crucifixion and resurrection. The Message challenges Christians to embrace sacrifice, surrender, and transformation as they follow Christ's example.

### **Key Points:**

- Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem
- Holy Week is a time for deep spiritual reflection and preparation
- True discipleship involves walking the full road with Jesus, including suffering and sacrifice
- The cross represents not just suffering, but love that bleeds, chooses, and saves
- Believers are called to die to themselves in order to truly live and bear fruit
- Preparation for Holy Week should involve body, mind, and spirit
- Christians are called to be doers of faith, not just observers
- The resurrection is not just to be believed, but to be lived

### **Scripture Reference:**

- Luke 19:28-44 (Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday)

### **Stories:**

- The story of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling prophecy and demonstrating his kingship.
- A personal anecdote about Bruce sitting with his dying mother, relating it to spending time in silent prayer with Jesus.
- The story of a young man on a mission trip who trusted God for provision when he had no money for a boat fare.

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

How might our expectations of God sometimes prevent us from recognizing His true purpose and presence in our lives, as happened with those who welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday?

In what ways can we prepare ourselves - body, mind, and spirit - to fully engage with the profound spiritual journey of Holy Week?

How does Jesus' choice to enter Jerusalem on a donkey, rather than a warhorse, challenge our understanding of true power and leadership?

What areas of our lives might God be calling us to 'die' to, so that new life in Christ can more fully emerge?

How can we cultivate a 'sacred awareness' in our daily lives, especially during Holy Week, even amidst our regular responsibilities and routines?

In what ways might we be tempted to be mere 'spectators' of our faith rather than active participants, and how can we overcome this tendency?

How does the concept of Jesus as the 'Paschal Lamb' deepen our understanding of His sacrifice and its significance for our lives?

What does it mean practically to 'carry our cross daily' in following Jesus, and how might this look different for each individual?

How can we move from merely believing in the resurrection to truly living it out in our daily lives and relationships?

In what ways might God be calling us to demonstrate sacrificial love in our own lives, following Jesus' example during Holy Week?

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### **SMALL GROUP GUIDE**

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Begin by praying the Impacter's prayer together as a group. Lord, as we enter into Holy Week, open our hearts to receive the profound truths of your sacrifice and love. Help us to walk closely with Jesus through this sacred time. Amen.

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. Palm Sunday is both a day of triumph and tension, marking the beginning of Holy Week.
2. Holy Week is not just about observing historical events, but about participating in Jesus' journey.
3. We are called to move beyond superficial faith and allow God to work more deeply in our lives.
4. True discipleship involves walking the full road with Jesus - through praise, suffering, and resurrection.
5. Holy Week is a time for intentional spiritual preparation and reflection.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. The Message mentions that the people's expectations of Jesus as a political savior led to their eventual disappointment. In what ways might our own expectations of God sometimes be misaligned?
2. Reflect on this quote from the Message: "Do we follow Jesus for who He truly is or what we hope He will do for us?" How can we ensure we're following Jesus for the right reasons?
3. Bruce emphasizes that Holy Week is about participation, not just observation. What are some practical ways we can actively engage in the events of Holy Week?
4. Discuss the concept of "dying to self" mentioned in the Message. What might this look like in your daily life?
5. The Message lists several suggestions for preparing for Holy Week. Which of these resonated with you most and why?
6. How can we maintain a "sense of urgency and sacred awareness" during Holy Week while still managing our regular responsibilities?

#### **Practical Applications:**

1. Choose one or two of the ten suggestions from the Message to implement this week. Share your choice with the group and commit to following through.
2. Write a letter of gratitude to someone who has shown you Christ's love, as suggested in the Message.
3. Set aside time each day of Holy Week for intentional prayer and reflection on Jesus' journey to the cross.

4. Fast from criticism, comparison, or complaints for the week, focusing instead on speaking words that bring life.
5. On Easter morning, wake up early and pray aloud, "He is risen, and so am I." Reflect on what this means for your life.

**Closing Prayer:**

Father God, thank you for the gift of your Son and the profound love demonstrated through His sacrifice. As we enter into Holy Week, help us to walk closely with Jesus, to die to ourselves, and to rise with Him in newness of life. May this be a transformative time for each of us. In Jesus' name, Amen.