

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ON PALM SUNDAY?

MARCH 31 & APRIL 1, 2012 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER



The next day the **great crowd** that had come for the **festival** heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took **palm branches** and went out to meet him, shouting, “**Hosanna!** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the **king of Israel!**”

Jesus found a **young donkey** and sat on it, as it is written: “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”
John 12:12–15 NV

How “great” was the crowd? _____

What was the “festival”? _____

Why “palm branches”? _____

What does “Hosanna” mean? _____

Why a “young donkey”? _____

What happened next?

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money . . . “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of thieves.’” *Matthew 21:12–13*

Three faith lessons from Palm Sunday

1. _____

At first his disciples did not understand all this . . . *John 12:16a*

2. _____

Only after Jesus was **glorified** did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him. *John 12:16b*

3. _____

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and **were holding palm branches in their hands**. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” *Revelation 7:9–10*



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Three Phases of Faith



_____ by God



_____ by God



_____ by God

The Bottom Line:

**God is _____ and He is writing
a story _____ .**

Daily Meditations

Monday

What struck home for you in last weekend's message?

Read Matthew 21:7–10. Think of your life right now. How might you be trying to give God an identity or agenda or schedule that is not His? How does that affect your life?

Ask God to show you where you need to surrender to His plan for your life, whether or not it matches yours!

Tuesday

Read John 12:12–19. The crowds praised Jesus for what they thought He could do for them, not for just who He was. Someone said that this crowd contained many fans, but few followers. What's the difference between being a fan of Jesus and being a follower of Jesus?

Is it possible for people today to be fans but not followers of Jesus?

Are you a fan or a follower?

How can you follow Jesus as true Lord in your life this week?

Ask Jesus to show you how to honor Him as your Lord and King! Pray that He would be honored at our Easter services.

Wednesday

While there will be times you will not be certain of Jesus' timing or precise agenda for our lives, you can always be certain of His identity! Read Luke 4:14–21. What does this tell you about Jesus? What is His agenda, and identity, according to these verses?

How does this comfort you?

How can you get involved with His agenda?

Thank God today for His amazing love for you. Thank Him for His grace. Praise Him for who He is! Pray for our Easter services this weekend, that they would be a powerful display of the resurrected Christ!

Thursday

Read Matthew 26:36–56. How is Jesus' prayer an excellent model for you to follow when you need to yield to God's agenda in your life?

How can you apply this to your own life now?

How does Jesus' decision to drink the "cup" help you in your obedience to God?

Ask God to help you submit to His will, even when it is not your preferred option. Pray for our Easter services.

Friday

Read John 19:16–37. What can you find to praise God for in this account of Christ's death for you?

Write down a prayer of praise to God for what the death of Christ accomplished for you:

Pray the prayer you wrote. Remember the Good Friday services tonight.

Saturday

In preparation for Easter, read John 19:38–20:31. Remember the Easter services in your prayers: That many would attend and know the power of the risen Christ in their lives! Thank you!



Memory Verse

[Jesus:] "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." *John 12:44–46*