

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

May 19, 2021

John 12: 12 - 19

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. 17 The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record. 18 For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle. 19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

Pastor Tom read the passage and then reviewed from last week: The miracle of Lazarus coming back from the dead and its ramifications.

Have you ever had the joy of a miracle 'taken away' from you? Have skeptics ever tried to discount the act of God performed in the miracle causing you to take your eyes off of God?

Verse 12

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

*This verse sets the scene at the Passover feast. This is one of the feasts that required all Jewish males of a certain age to come to Jerusalem.

*There were people there who had either seen or heard about the miracle of raising Lazarus and they were waiting for Jesus. As a church, we should be looking for Jesus to come. (Pastor Tom recalled a conversation with a cashier at Dollar General who said 'Have a blessed day' and in response to Tom's 'hope to see you at church', she said, 'If the Lord doesn't come first')

*Sadly, many people believe they have plenty of time before Jesus returns.

Verse 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.

Psalm 118:22 - 29

22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. 23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. 24 This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. 25 Save now, I beseech thee, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord: we have blessed you out of the house of the Lord. 27 God is the Lord, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar. 28 Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee. 29 O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

*Verse 24 declares that this day (Palm Sunday) is the day the Lord has made.

*Verse 25 uses the words 'save now' which in Hebrew is Hosanna!

*The reference in this Psalm to Palm Sunday events was written 1000 years before the actual Palm Sunday!

Verses 14 and 15

And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.

Zechariah 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.

*A colt is a young male.

*This prophecy was written 500 years before Jesus rode on the ass on Palm Sunday. The prophecy not only named the kind of animal Jesus

would ride but also that it had never been ridden before Jesus rode on it. And the words 'having salvation' are echoed in the hosannas being shouted by the people. This verse tells exactly how the event would happen!

*Pastor Tom pointed out some parallels to the Passover itself and the events of Jesus' death:

Passover requires an unblemished, male lamb. Jesus is the perfect lamb who met all the requirements of the passover lamb.

Verse 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 disciples did not understand everything that was going on at this time but began to know what was happening after the resurrection when Jesus was glorified.

*Pastor Tom asked Marlin to describe how Jesus was different to him now than when he was younger. Marlin said that Jesus means more to him now than when he went to church as a youngster. Jesus had controlled his life from birth but He turned Marlin at his conversion and has turned him many times during his life.

*The interactions the disciples had with Jesus on Palm Sunday were very different from what they had on Easter Sunday, one week later.

*As Marlin recalled and as happened with the disciples, one of the Wesleyan doctrines is being demonstrated: The doctrine of prevenient grace. This is when God is working in your life and you don't even realize it. Only God can change your heart from a state of not understanding or knowing to a place where you do get some understanding. More evidence of this doctrine can be seen when we read a scripture verse or passage several times and new understanding is revealed even after years of reading the same passage. You see something new for the first time. Then you hunger more for the Word, you can't get enough of it!

* The last chapter in the book of Daniel (chapter 12) shows us the relevance of understanding: God tells Daniel not to worry if he does not understand all that he'd been told...it will all be revealed in the last days.

Pastor Tom then discussed the grassroots effort needed to bring Jesus to the world. In Korea, where the most persecution takes place, underground churches are flourishing. Tiffany Hays will be returning to Africa for a short term mission event. And we must be praying for our own children so they get to know Jesus. In the UMC, change cannot occur from the top down. It has to come from the local churches getting into the Word of God.

What made the difference in the disciples, as in us, is when Jesus was glorified at the resurrection. And Jesus is glorified when we ask Him into our hearts!

Verse 17

The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.

*Pastor Tom recalled his image of the Lazarus story from a flannelgraph used in Sunday School when he was a boy. He still remembers how just the eyes were visible through the white cloth wrapped around Lazarus' head.

*People who had actually seen the event, when Jesus called Lazarus from the grave, witnessed to others about it.

* When the trumpet sounds, we will be called out of the grave by Jesus!

*The term 'bare record' foretells that our names will be written in the Lamb's Book of Life when we are called out of the grave too!. And Satan can do lots of things but he cannot ever erase our names from that Book!.

Verse 18

For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle.

*On Palm Sunday, the people who had only heard about the miracle came to actually see Jesus.

*Even today, people who have heard about Jesus are hungry to learn more about this Jesus.

*But ...enter the naysayer, Satan who comes to steal, kill and destroy. Satan does not like Mt.Olive Church...he doesn't want us to be strong. He doesn't

want marriages to succeed as a reflection of Jesus Christ and the church, His bride. Satan thinks if he can hurt a marriage, then he can hurt the church.

Verse 19

The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

*Enter the Pharisees... 'Don't you know what's going on? The whole world (!) is following this Jesus. And they continue plotting to 'steal, kill and destroy'!

To end our study tonight Pastor Tom, with Lisa's help, played the song, "Something's Going on in the Graveyard!"

In this song, the trumpet sounded, the dead in Christ are raised and we that remain alive will be caught up! That's what the Word says so that's it!

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love!

May the Lord watch between me and thee
While we are absent one from the other.
