

SERMON | JESUS' SECOND TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

SERIES | BOOK OF MARK

STUDY GUIDE | DAVID STOCKTON | PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

SERMON SUMMARY

Palm Sunday commemorates when Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem and a crowd gathered around in celebration. Jesus riding the donkey into Jerusalem is profoundly significant. It fulfilled prophecies hundreds of years old and was one of a few brief moments where some people responded correctly to God incarnate. It is called Palm Sunday because the crowds of people in Jerusalem, who had heard of, or been healed by Jesus, waved palm branches to honor Jesus. The crowd also shouted, "Hosanna in the Highest and Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord", which made the religious leaders in Jerusalem really upset. It was as if this crowd was declaring Jesus to be the promised Messiah, capable of removing the wicked oppressive rulers of the Jewish people and giving both the land, and them, peace, and prosperity. It is a special event and worthy of commemoration. What we are going to focus on is something which happened right after the triumphal entry of Palm Sunday. It is found in Mark 13.

After Jesus ransacked the temple for a few hours, He and the disciples were heading out, when one of the disciples points out how remarkable the stones of the temple are. Jesus, probably still a little fired up, tells him it's all going to be destroyed. The group goes out of the wall of Jerusalem and walks across the Kidron Valley, then up the mount of Olives, and sits down facing the temple.

James, and his brother John, Peter, and his brother Andrew, all approach Jesus. They just saw Jesus rampage in the temple, then overheard Him say the temple will be destroyed, and they have a couple questions. The disciples ask Jesus when the end of this age will be and what the signs of the end of this age will be before it happens.

When? This is easily answered by Jesus in verse 32. Jesus says no one, not even He, knows the day or hour.

What will be the signs? This is what Jesus spends most of this Olivet discourse answering in verses 13-27. The true signs are the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be, the tribulation as has never been seen before, false christs and prophets performing signs and wonders, the powers in the heavens shaken, the Son of man coming in great power and glory, and the gathering of the elect from the ends of the earth and heavens.

What about the descriptions in verses 6-12? Jesus says there will be wars and rumors of wars, nations against nations, earthquakes and famines, persecutions and trials, and families turning on each other. Jesus said these are just proof that the world is pregnant with a new heaven and new earth, a new age. These are but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Many Bible teachers use verses 6-12 to get people fired up about Jesus' return. But Jesus said do not be deceived into thinking the end is near when you see these things. Instead, He seems to be teaching that these things in verses 6-12 are proof of this world being pregnant with a new world. Every time we see wars and rumors of war, earthquakes, and famines, a part of us should weep and lament, but another part of us should rest in hope. Just like a pregnant woman knows, all the pain and discomfort, is a sign of something good coming. Jesus also seems to be connecting the pains and sufferings with the spreading of the gospel. **The gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.** The purpose of God allowing for all the persecutions and troubles, are to help us with our witness. The greatest gospel presentation is and always has been when a Christian suffers well. Remember Jesus on the cross. As the Roman Centurion who oversaw Jesus' crucifixion concluded, truly Jesus is the Son of God, because He saw the grace with which Jesus suffered. Paul hated

Christians and oversaw the murderous stoning of Stephen. Not long after, Paul is a devoted follower of Jesus, spreading the gospel by himself, suffering with grace, and blessing those who persecuted him. As Christians, when we are complaining, bickering, and have a bad attitude, we are not suffering with grace. It is not a witness to the beauty, goodness, and truth we have in Christ. The frictions we are experiencing and will most likely see drastically increased in our lifetime, will only be allowed by Jesus if they create powerful opportunities for the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

There have been verse 6-12 signs repeated many times over in the last 2000 years. Within the generation after Jesus, there was earthquakes, wars, famines, signs in the sky, and the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 70AD. All of these are verse 6-12 things. But verses 13-27 signs have not clearly appeared since Jesus spoke these words.

What were Jesus' clear admonitions to His disciples, as He answered these two questions?

Jesus clear repetitive admonition after He answered the first question about when these things would happen is, "Be on guard and stay awake." Jesus clear repetitive admonition after He answered the second questions about what the signs will be is, "See that no one leads you astray, do not be alarmed, and be on your guard."

What does it mean to be on guard, stay awake, not alarmed, and not led astray? Peter was one of the guys who asked Jesus the questions, as He was gazing at the temple from the Mt. of Olives. Peter was one of the guys who heard Jesus say these words and instructed us in 1 Peter 5:6-11.

Jesus answers the questions, but more importantly teaches His disciples to be on guard against being enamored with this age (kingdom of this world) and to stay alert to the coming of the new age (kingdom of God). There are many pressures we experience in this world which can leave us investing time, talent, and treasure, on what is unimportant and won't last. Jesus wants us to be alert to His kingdom, His voice, and His promptings, and let them be the guide and motivation for how we spend our lives. We have to guard against the worldly pressures and stay awake to the Spirit's promptings.

SCRIPTURE READING

READ THIS WEEKS BIBLE PASSAGE: Mark 13:1-37, 1 Peter 5:6-11 (NIV)

The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

13 As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" **2** "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." **3** As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, **4** "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?"

5 Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. **6** Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. **7** When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. **8** Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. **9** "You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. **10** And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. **11** Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

¹² “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ¹³ Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ “When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁵ Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out. ¹⁶ Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. ¹⁷ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ¹⁸ Pray that this will not take place in winter, ¹⁹ because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again.

²⁰ “If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them. ²¹ At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. ²² For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²³ So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.

²⁴ “But in those days, following that distress,

“the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

²⁶ “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

The Day and Hour Unknown

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. ³⁵ “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’” – Mark 13:1-37

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. – 1 Peter 5:6

BIBLE PASSAGE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What stood out to you in these passages? Did the Lord highlight anything to you? What do these passages teach you about the character of God? What do these passages teach you about mankind? What do these passages teach you about how mankind should respond to God? What do these passages teach you about how to respond to others?

Read these passages again (use a different translation if helpful). How did these passages help to convict, correct, or encourage you?

GROUP DISCUSSION

DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR GROUP

1. What do you think is the main point Jesus wants His disciples to get by sharing these signs?
2. What should we be on guard for? How do we stay alert and stand guard?
3. Does it come easy or hard for you to suffer with grace? How can we be examples to those around us of the faith and hope we have in Christ in the trials we face?
4. What principle do we learn in verse 11? How can we prepare for times of persecution?

PRAYER

Take some time for prayer requests and pray over one another before wrapping up.

