

“Don’t Overlook the Value of Palm Sunday”

By Jesse Rairdon and Brother Parrish Lee

Sunday, March 29th, 2015

Jesse: I want Brother Parrish to come up, too, because he’s sharing the pulpit today. Amen.

Andy: God Almighty, I thank You. I thank You for this day; I thank You for this time of worship. I thank you for Your Spirit that’s in this place. God, as these men come to preach Your word, to teach, to share, bless them this morning. Bless Jesse and Parrish as they seek to be Your vessels, as they seek to be Your mouthpieces, Lord, to preach the things that are sound doctrine. Bless their understanding; bless their wisdom this morning. Grant them the words to say to minister to those that are here. Bless each one of us as we listen, and let us listen intently to get the things that You have for us this morning. Thank You, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Jesse: Amen. You may be seated. God’s Value System. What an awesome month. What an awesome time of reflection on what’s important to God.

As we’re getting ready for Easter next week, a lot of people plan and prepare; they think about Easter a lot, but God wants us to remember the events that took place leading up to His resurrection. Why was Jesus coming to Jerusalem? What were the things that were happening, were taking place around the world, at this time, at this particular place? And, before it was called Palm Sunday, it was called the triumphant entry. Parrish is going to share a little bit about that. Give the Lord a praise as he comes.

Parrish: Well, saints, normally what we do—and I want to thank Brother Jesse who said—well, we were talking, and, we long to have a spirit in ministry where, as Peter and John were going into the Temple at the hour of prayer, and they saw the man who needed to be healed, he turned and said, not, “I got what can help you,” but, “Look on us.” That’s the spirit, that’s the attitude of beatitude, we desire to have in the ministry. The only big “I” around here is the, “I, Lord Jesus.” He’s the only One. Amen.

At this time, normally what we would do is we would hand out the palm leaves as we would be exiting, but that is not the way it is going to be here today, because it has a purpose. So, we’re going to ask the ushers, if they would, to grab the palm leaves, and, yes, go row by row, and hand them out to everybody in attendance here, so that everybody will have a palm leaf while this message is going on. This is something that’s a little bit of a departure, but, as Brother Jesse and I, we had talked about it, it has so much purpose, so much purpose. It’s amazing the Spirit God pours out for His people. All you have to do is come, and say, “Lord, I come,” and He is there, and he will answer according to His riches and His glory. Amen, amen. This is awesome; this is awesome. Handing out the palm leaves before you exit, because, so often we would say, “Go and prepare the way of the Lord.” Amen. Make sure that everybody who wants one, has one. Everyone who is a follower of the Lord.

1. The Triumphant Entry-

So, as Brother Jesse said, before that Sunday was known as Palm Sunday it was referred to as The Triumphant Entry. This was a really busy time among the people of Israel. You see, a week from that time, that day, would have been what we refer to as Easter, but they were looking forward to the Passover. Passover was a tremendous time of celebration and feasting and sacrifice and doing good. There’s a lot of preparation going on. Everybody that was around Israel knew about the Passover. That was a time they set aside to remember God’s deliverance. He told them to remember the Passover, the

day that He set them free, made them free, delivered them from the land of Egypt. As the song says, “With a mighty hand. With a mighty hand. He is our deliverer, He is our King. All creation sings, Give thanks to the Lord.” So, as they were doing all this preparation for the Passover, God also wanted to show them something: That it’s not just a time of preparation, this is also a time of purpose; this is also a time of promise. And, of the many things that were going on at this time, as Brother Jesse alluded to, we just want to mention four. We just want to mention four. Because Jesse has me on a strict time limit here, we just want to mention four.

Matthew 20:20-22 *Then came to Him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping Him, and desiring a certain thing of Him. And He said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto Him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on Thy right hand, and the other on the left, in Thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto Him, We are able.*

Parrish: Amen. Palm Sunday. So, Palm Sunday—leading up to Palm Sunday, this was a time when the mother of James and John, those were the children of Zebedee, the mother of James and John wanted a blessing for her children. And, so, she went to the Lord and said, “I want You to bless my kids!” The happened to be disciples, but, to her, they were her children. “Bless my children!” So, Palm Sunday, in this aspect, is a time when we can ask a blessing for our family. We can bring our families—yes, we can take our children, and, children, you can take your parents, our brothers and sisters, our cousins by the dozens, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, grandpa, grandma, whoever they are, it’s time to bring your family to the Lord, and ask for a blessing on them. And you notice how the Lord turned, and He turned, not to answer the mother, Salome, He turned to answer the children. He turned to answer who He knew as His disciples. He turned to ask them a question, and He said—He asked them a question, and asked, “You know not what you ask. Are you able to be baptized with My baptism, and to drink of My cup?” So, Palm Sunday is a time when those who follow Jesus can come and listen to His answers, instruction for their lives.

Our next case that we would like to go to:

Mark 10:46-50 *And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.*

So, Bartimaeus shows us in this example—this is the time, this was in the week before Palm Sunday, believe it or not, there was so much going on, but Bartimaeus shows us here that this is a time for the blind, and the weak, and the begging, and the destitute, and those that don’t have—if you’re poor, if you’re hungry—it’s a time to make your cry unto the Lord and not to be deterred, not to be deplored, not to be distracted by those around you telling you to hold your peace, that this is not that time. Not to be changed from your path, but to make your cry out unto the Lord, for, as it says in verse number forty-nine, for then, Jesus made everything stand still, and commanded him to be brought into His presence. So, if we make that cry unto the Lord, the Lord makes everything else stop, and says, “I’m calling you to My presence.”

Our next example that we would like to go to, yes, this was a busy time, and, it's amazing how you go through the different Gospels, and you see they're all highlighting so many things about this time, because there was so much going on.

John 12:1 *Then Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.*

Lazarus, which had been dead, whom Jesus raised from the dead... You see, a week before Passover, Jesus rose Lazarus from being dead. So Lazarus shows us that this is a time when those things that are in your life that don't have any help, that are beyond help, the things that you think have no more life in them, and, yes, it could be anything from a job to a relationship; it could be anything from an anointing that you used to have; it could be anything from just your understanding to your level of involvement with somebody. It is that time that the Lord says, "Though it looked like it had no life, I am the One who raises things from the dead. I bring it to life."

Our last example:

Matthew 21:2-7 *Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them. All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass. And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, and brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set Him thereon.*

So Jesus called—He didn't even see the event, He just called and had the colt and the ass—that's the mother of the colt—had them both brought to Him. It shows us, this example shows us, brothers and sisters, this example shows us that if you ever felt like you were an outcast, if you ever felt that you weren't included, if you ever felt that—Pastor Thomas said this once, if you ever felt that maybe you just don't fit in, people don't call for you, and something is restricting you, something's got you tied up, that you feel like you're not going to be in the presence of all the great and mighty ones, and the Lord surely isn't going to use you; this shows that God knows where you are. He knows who you are. He knows your exact situation. When everybody else is amazed at where you are, and can't reach you, the Lord has a calling for you. And the Lord ain't listening to nobody else; He says, "Go and get my child. Go and get them, and bring them to Me, because I have need of you." Then the Lord sets you with Him. In other words, the Lord wants you to take Him wherever you go. It isn't about speaking, because these two, the ass and the colt, they didn't speak; they were animals. Even if they could, who knows what kind of a message that would have been? But that wasn't their purpose. Their purpose was to take the Lord wherever they went, wherever they went.

One last point over this, this Palm Sunday thing: this going in as the singers sang, "I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart; I will enter His courts with praise," and, yes, it was a time of Him entering into Jerusalem, but it wasn't all about Him entering the gates, it was more about Him opening the gates. You see, the Temple only had the special priest inside. And, outside of that, it was the special men. And, outside of that, it was the special women and children. And, outside of that, it was the Gentiles' court. But this is the Lord, saying, "This is Me, opening the gates to My house, to My presence."

Brother Jesse.

2. Peace-

Jesse: Amen. Everybody got their Palm leaves? You see, God values the Triumphant Entry. God values these things that we were talking about. When Jesus rode in on that colt, on that young donkey, He rode in signifying peace. Peace. He didn't ride in on the full horse, the war horse, because He wasn't coming in to conquer at that time. That's what everybody expected; they wanted a King to come and conquer these Romans. They wanted to be out from under the Romans' rule, but God had a different thing in mind. He wanted peace for His people.

Luke 19:41-42 *And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.*

"If you only knew the peace that I have for you. If you only knew the whole purpose of Me coming to Earth, when the angels said, 'Peace on Earth.' If you only knew, Jerusalem, all I have for you. If you only knew—but now it's hid from your eyes."

There's a different peace that Jesus brings than the world brings. See, the United States goes around to be "peacekeepers;" God wants us to be peacemakers. There's a difference. When you walk into a situation, you don't *keep* the peace, you *make* the peace when you bring God's peace with you. It's a little different than the world saying that there's peace; trying to bring all these people together and saying, "Peace," because they all have their own agenda, and it's underhanded.

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

See, it's a little bit of a difference. You ever have people come to you and say, "I don't know what it is, I can't put my finger on it, but there's some kind of peace about you. There's something about you, when I'm around you, I feel like I can relax; I feel like I can breathe a little easier. I feel like the weight just kind of lifts off of me. That's the peace that passes all understanding. That's the peace that Jesus was bringing that they could even see, they didn't even know about. That's the kind of peace that rests in you when Jesus goes with you. There's another Scripture where Jesus says, "When you go into a house, then your peace rests upon that house." (Luke 10:5-6) "If they receive you, then keep that peace in that house, but, if they reject you, then kick the very dust off your feet and take your peace back with you, and woe unto that house. It will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah on judgment day, if they don't receive the peace of God (Matthew 10:13-15). Amen?"

Let's get back to Israel. See, God had a plan for Israel from the beginning. When He first called Abraham, when He first called Isaac, God had a plan for Israel. Don't find yourself on the wrong side of Israel; God is going to be for those who are for Israel. Amen? Even after the time of the Gentiles is full, God has a space for grace for Israel.

Psalms 122:6-8 *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.*

Amen? Brother Parrish.

3. Servants/Service-

Parrish: Amen, Brother Jesse. The servants, and the service of the Lord.

John 12:26 *If any man serve me* [and, just in case anybody is saying, “Ah-ah, I’m off the hook!” that is gender-inspecific, and that is age-inspecific, okay? So it’s talking about everybody.], *let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour.*

If any man serve Me, him will My Father honor. So, after He raised Lazarus from the dead, and after He healed blind Bartimaeus, and after He had done so many things leading up to this point, He said “If any man serve Me let Him follow me;” Now, we’ve had a month of services, and we’ve talked about God’s value system, and we named the things that God values. We talked about some of the things, anyway, because God values many things. We’ve talked about love and humility; we’ve talked about enduring, mercy, faith, humility, wisdom. We’ve talked about family, and listening to Him, and God values His name. We’ve talked about this, but this verse says, again, “If any man serve Me, let him follow me, and, where I am, there shall also My servant be: If any man serve Me, him will My Father honor.” If we were to look up this word, ‘honor,’ if we were to just look it up, this word, ‘honor,’ here means, “to prize, i.e. fix a valuation upon...” This word, here, means, “To value.” So, as you serve God, God values you.

Now, don’t misunderstand his; we do want to make something clear: Our God who made the heavens and earth, and all that is within them; that same God loves us with the type of love that passes understanding. It’s the kind of love that’s so deep that He gave, according to the Bible, He only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). So God loves us with a love that is hard to fathom. That’s how much God loves us, but He *values* us when we serve Him. He values us as we serve Him and as we follow Him.

Brother Jesse.

Jesse: God values service.

4. Compassion- God values compassion

Matthew 20:29-34 *And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, Thou Son of David. And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, Thou Son of David. And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, **What will ye that I shall do unto you?** They say unto Him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.*

“Compassion” in this sense means, “to have the bowels yearn, that is, (figuratively) feel sympathy, to pity: - to be moved with compassion. “ There was a lot going on here; Jesus was getting ready to prepare for His death; the Passover was going on. There was a lot going on, but Jesus stopped to show compassion. God values compassion. That’s a right now thing. You might be busy in your life, but someone lost a loved one, you stop, and you go and you show compassion. When someone else is hurting, and you know that they’re hurting, you stop, and you pray with them. You might be busy. You might be a ministry leader; you might have things to do, people waiting on your phone calls and your text returns, but you stop and show compassion.

God values compassion. It’s a right now thing. Don’t tell somebody, “I’ll give you compassion next week or a time to come when it’s more convenient for me.”

Proverbs 3:27-28 *Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. [Right now] Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.*

When you have the ability to show compassion, to show love, right now is the time. You don't delay; right now is the time to show that compassion. Jesus is our example; he stopped what He was doing to say, "I'm going to show some compassion." He was moved with compassion. When he fed the thousands, and they were following Him, He was teaching them, he was moved with compassion; He had them sit down and He fed them. Compassion will cause you to get out of your comfort zone, your agenda, and cause you to do God's agenda. Amen? So, God values compassion.

Jude 1:22-24 *And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,*

See, I was saved with fear; I didn't want to go to Hell. There was a space of time that I knew that I could die before I got baptized. God revealed that to me, before I took on His name, there's, "I've got to get this right." There was fear that saved me, but compassion has kept me. Compassion has kept me, brother and sisters. Compassion God values.

Brother Parrish.

Parrish: Mmmph! Wow! Man, I just feel like giving God a praise!

5. God Values You-

It was on purpose, on purpose, that we had the palms handed out and didn't dwell so much on how they laid them in the road, and the coats and everything that they put there, saying, "Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna." Sure, that was on this day that they would do that.

Revelation 7:9-17 *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? [Jesse: You ever have a teacher ask a question when they already knew the answer, but they just kind of asked it anyway to kind of get your attention?] And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve [There's that service; God values service] day and night in his temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

Wave your palms. They had palms in their hands. They that were serving God were with Him. We talked about that. In Heaven, they had palms in their hands. Don't underestimate the power and the value of the thing that God wants to teach you, rushing into Easter; remember the thing that He's doing for you now, and will be doing for you forever.

Brother Parrish.

Parrish: After we have a—we're going to have a prayer here, what we'd like is, the singers, you're going to come and you're going to sing, "I Will Enter his Gates with thanksgiving in my Heart." All those that were clothed in white waved their palms. Let us wave our palms as we close in prayer.

Lord, we come to You, Almighty God, in the bristling, in the bristling, God, as we come and just stand in Your presence. And, Lord, as the men said, "Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna," back then, we say it now. God, You're glorious and wonderful and awesome and true. Unto You we bring all that we have, God. Yes, Lord, we bring our families, we bring our minds, we bring our hearts, we bring our souls, and we ask You to have Your way across our lives. Yes, Lord, we desire to drink from your cup; be baptized with Your baptism, Lord. God, we're just as the colt, and the foal of an ass, we're like that, Lord. We just say, "We don't even have to open our mouths, God; use us. We will take You wherever we go, God, You use us." God, pour Your Spirit out, pour Your Spirit out and give it, so that we can return it to You as a praise. For You alone are worthy, as they said, of honor and glory, and thanksgiving, and power. In You do we trust. We are led by Your great name, Lord Jesus. We honor You, and we glorify You. We come into Your presence and say, "Thank You for all that You've done for us, great God in Heaven." And everyone said, amen.

