

“Turning Point”
By Brother Kenneth Ray
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A turning point is a point at which something changes direction; a point in time when a decisive change occurs. Every day can be a turning point.

Today is what we have come to know as Palm Sunday. The original Palm Sunday was a turning point: Jesus rode victoriously into Jerusalem, and a week later, he had been crucified. This year Palm Sunday falls on the same day as something we know as April Fool’s Day, or All Fool’s Day. Let me tell you something: God is foolish.

1 Corinthians 1:23 ...the foolishness of God is wiser than men...

God may be foolish, but He is no fool.

Palm Sunday is in Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, and John 12. We read how Jesus is riding a colt into the city of Jerusalem.

Luke 19:38 ...Saying Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven...

People are taking branches of palms and placing them in the street to welcome Jesus into the city. He was a celebrity. You notice that the crowd was saying, “Peace in Heaven,” because there was no peace on earth. We may not think of Palm trees as being anything special today, but in the culture back then, the plm tree played a very important part in their culture. Laying down palm branches was like laying down cashmere. For Jesus, this is more than just a grand entrance; it is a point when the direction of His life and His ministry will change.

The Bible tells us of many turning points: King Saul lost his kingdom (1 Samuel 13:8-14); King David lost his son (2 Samuel 12:13-21); Saul the Pharisee became Paul the Apostle (Acts 9:3-21); just to name a few.

Jesus spake these words: **"Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour."** (John 12:27)

In our own lives we have turning points.

John 12:25 ...he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

This verse speaks to the daily fight that a Christian, that any person, faes in the battle of having Jesus enter into your city victorious one day, and then a week later you counting it as foolish and saying, “Away with this man, give us Barabbas.” (Luke 23:13-18) Does anybody know where the expression, “Sunday best” came from? I know that we’re supposed to give God our firstfruits, but who decided that we need to get dressed up to worship God? If you want to

see some people get excited, bring up wearing blue jeans to church. Even if the boss talks about 'casual Friday' at work, somebody will always ask about blue jeans. Why? Because they're more comfortable. The rule here is, if you are bringing the message, or in the music group, or you are an usher, no jeans; dress nicer than that, but, anybody else, just be decent and presentable.

Matthew 27:17 ...Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas or Jesus...

Choose you this day whom ye will serve (Joshua 24:15), Barabbas or Jesus. Also, read the rest of the story of the crucifixion.

Matthew 27:20 ...the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude...

How can you choose Barabbas over Jesus? Going along with co-workers and friends, especially on Sunday morning. Holding bad feelings, and not talking to that person, but talking about them to others. Grading everything and everyone, at least in your own mind, and not offering any solutions.

Now, Barabbas was a murderer and a thief (John 18:41).

Peter said, in Acts 3:14: "But ye denied the Holy One and the Just and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;" This is not the turning point that Christ came for. He came victorious so that you could have victory and live victorious by Him and through Him. We are the ones who are supposed to be making a difference.

John 10:10 *The thief cometh not but for to steal and to kill and to destroy: I am come that they might have life...*

From the very beginning, God gave us free will. Choose to live among the living. We can be reconciled to Christ; that's what Jesus is all about. It's simple math: just like 1+1=2, me and Jesus equals a majority.

Matthew 22:32 *I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob...*

Let me ask you something: Is that a statement or a question? Why does it end with a question mark? Anyway, Jesus went on to say, "God is not a God of the dead, but of the living." Let us all turn to Christ and be among the living. Will you carry the pastor? Will you carry your brothers and sisters? Will you and I be useful? It's easy to shout, "Hosanna!" It's easy to talk about the goodness of Christ. What good am I? Whose life has been affected by me? Come out of the crowd and be as the colt that one loosed to bear forth Jesus to the people and be useful in His cause. Stop being called a Christian and start living as one.

Don't let this message be thought-provoking, because if it's thought-provoking, then you'll end up not doing anything with it. Apply it to your life; let it grade you. Apply His teaching.