

Palm Sunday ~ Sunday, March 29, 2026
“The Heart God Desires ~ The Heart of the King”
Philippians 2:5-11 & Matthew 21:1-11

Palm Sunday begins with _____, as crowds gather along the road into Jerusalem...It looks like a royal procession, and sounds like victory. And yet, if you listen carefully, there’s a strange _____ beneath the surface because the people are welcoming a King they don’t fully _____.

It’s possible to _____ Jesus and still misunderstand Him. It’s possible to shout Hosanna while holding onto expectations He never promised to fulfill. That’s why this day matters so much—not just as the beginning of Holy Week, but as a _____ of the heart of God.

We can’t fully understand the heart God desires in us until we first behold the heart God reveals in _____.

Palm Sunday isn’t just about palms and processions, it’s about _____. It’s the day when the King comes into view, and when His heart is displayed for all to see.

3 DEFINING MARKS OF KING JESUS’ HEART

Mark #1: The heart of the King is _____.
“Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey...’” (Matthew 21:5)

This isn’t accidental or convenience—it’s _____t—as Matthew tells us plainly that this moment fulfills the prophecy spoken centuries earlier in Zechariah.

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion...behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey.” (Zechariah 9:9)

That word _____ is the key to understanding this moment.

The contrast couldn’t be any _____. And yet, this humble procession reveals a deeper kind of strength because humility, in the hands of Christ, isn’t weakness—it’s _____.

It’s the strength to refuse _____, to reject self-glory, and to trust _____ way, instead of demanding one’s own.

“...in very nature God,” He “did not consider equality with God something to be

grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant.” (Philippians 2:6-7)

Jesus had every right to glory, honour, and recognition. Yet, He didn’t cling to His status, demand privilege, or insist on His rights. Instead, He humbled Himself. Not because He lacked power, but because humility is the very _____ of God.

That runs against almost every instinct of the human heart. We live in a world that celebrates _____—where success is measured by visibility, recognition, and influence.

Humility isn’t just something we admire in Jesus, it’s something He calls us to _____.

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 2:5)

Where are we clinging to pride? Where are we insisting on recognition? Where are we guarding our status instead of lowering ourselves to serve?

Although we may struggle with this, Scripture reminds us again and again that God _____ humility.

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6)

Pride closes doors that humility opens. Pride _____, humility draws people together.

This is the invitation that Palm Sunday places before us: To follow a King who rode a donkey. To serve a King who humbled Himself. To become people shaped not by pride, but by _____.

If we’re willing to follow the humble King, then something remarkable begins to happen. Our relationships _____, our conflicts diminish, and our lives begin to _____ the One we follow.

Mark #2: The heart of the King is _____.
“And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:8)

If humility marks the manner of the King’s arrival, obedience marks the _____ of His journey.

At first glance, Palm Sunday looks like a moment of _____. However, underneath the celebration, something far more serious is taking place. Jesus isn’t

wandering into Jerusalem by _____. He's not caught up in the enthusiasm of the crowd. He's moving with deliberate _____.

"...when the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem." (Luke 9:51)

It speaks of determination, _____, and a steady refusal to turn aside. Jesus doesn't drift toward the cross, He walks toward it. That's _____. And not just any obedience, but obedience that _____ everything.

In the Roman world, crucifixion was the most _____ and painful form of execution imaginable. It wasn't just death, it was _____. Yet, Jesus doesn't resist the path, shrink from the suffering, or abandon the mission. Instead, He obeys.

Obedience, in Scripture, is never just about duty—it's about _____. Jesus obeys the Father not reluctantly, but willingly; not under compulsion, but in _____.

"My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39)

That's obedience in its _____ form. Not blind submission, not mechanical compliance, but loving _____ to the will of God.

We live in a world that celebrates quick results and instant success. We admire dramatic moments, however, Scripture often points us toward steady _____ over time.

"I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me." (John 6:38)

This is where the Word begins to search our own hearts because obedience is easy to admire in theory, but hard to _____ in reality.

Scripture reminds us that obedience isn't _____ for followers of Christ—it's essential.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15)

True obedience flows from _____, grows out of trust, and deepens through surrender.

"...although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered." (Heb 5:8)

Thankfully, most obedience in the Christian life doesn't happen in grand gestures, but in small, daily _____. These small acts of obedience, repeated over time, shape our hearts and form us into people who _____ the King.

We're not asked to walk any road that Christ hasn't already walked. The King who calls us to obedience is the King who _____ first.

Mark #3: The heart of the King is _____.

"...Therefore God has highly exalted him..." (Philippians 2:9)

This is the great _____ at the heart of Palm Sunday because while the crowds celebrated a coming victory, Jesus knew that victory would come through _____. While they imagined a throne, He saw a cross. While they anticipated political freedom, He prepared to accomplish spiritual _____.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (John 12:24)

That's the heart of the King—a heart willing to be broken so that _____ might flourish in others. Not sentimental words, not shallow emotion, but _____ love.

"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Sacrificial love isn't just something Jesus did—it's something He calls us to _____.

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

Sacrificial love often appears in small, hidden _____. These moments may not look dramatic, but they carry _____ weight. And, sacrificial love is never _____.

Palm Sunday reminds us that the road to glory passes through _____. Sacrificial love, when rooted in Christ, always leads to _____.



Palm Sunday gently, but firmly, calls us back to _____. It calls us to see Jesus as He truly is. Not the king of our imagination, but the King of God's _____.

The palms we wave today will lead us to the _____ tomorrow. And only those who walk with Christ through the cross will fully share in the _____ of the resurrection.