

OPEN PALMS

TODAY'S TEXT: MARK 11:1-11

TODAY'S THEME: Today is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Passion Week. As we look at Jesus entering Jerusalem, what do our palms have to say about our heart?

"Palm Sunday" means having open palms of...

I. _____

A. Jesus, Enter This Way

- > People of Jerusalem were enthusiastic in their welcome
 - Clothing, blankets, _____ on the road
- > First Nations sign of welcome (palms up)

B. Closed Hearts Of _____

- > Some were not open to Jesus at all
 - They would rather stop him from getting to the temple

Revelation 3:20 – *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."*

"Palm Sunday" means having open palms of...

II. _____

A. Jesus, You Be In Charge

- > He entered Jerusalem as a king
 - A _____ action (Zechariah 9:9)
 - The choice that day was to surrender to Jesus or to resist him
- > Even the donkey surrendered to Jesus!
 - That unbroken colt needed a _____
- > Jesus took charge and cleansed the temple
 - It was _____ of how he would change people's hearts

B. _____ Fists In Resistance

- > Religious leaders and Pharisees saw no need to surrender to Jesus
 - Mastered by their own righteousness and _____

"Palm Sunday" means having open palms of...

III. _____

A. Jesus, You Are Worthy Of Praise

"The gospel says you are more sinful and flawed than you ever dared believe, but more accepted and loved than you ever dared hope."
– Timothy Keller

- > We don't worship because we don't fully _____ what Jesus accomplished
- > Jerusalem shouted Hosanna! "Save now, Lord!"
 - They wanted a physical king and ruler
- > Jesus was establishing a _____ kingdom
 - His kingdom is still being built in the hearts of his people today
 - He is worthy of your praise – more than anything or anyone else

B. Crossed Arms Of _____

- > The Pharisees started plotting and scheming
 - They dug in rather than _____ up
- > If we refuse to worship, the rocks will (Luke 19:40)

CONCLUSION: Allow your palms to be a symbolic reminder of your heart towards God as you welcome Him into your life, surrender to His will, and worship Jesus as Lord.

LIFEGROUP STUDY QUESTIONS:

“PALM SUNDAY” (Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem)

OPEN: Ask people to describe a situation where they felt very welcome.

- > Have there been any times when you have felt extremely *unwelcome*?

READ Matthew 21:1-13 together as a group.

- “Palm Sunday” seems to be a foretaste of Jesus’ resurrection on Easter morning.
 - > What are some words that might describe both of these Jesus-centered occasions?
- What event had to happen between Palm Sunday and the resurrection?
 - > What are some words that might describe what we now call “Good Friday”?
- The people wanted a Jewish king and ruler over them.
 - > How did they show a willingness to surrender to that type of leadership?
- Why do you think most of the people were unwilling to surrender to the type of kingdom Jesus provided?
 - > In what ways do we resist his kingdom in our lives today?

READ Matthew 20:25-28.

- How do you reconcile Jesus’ kingship with his humility?
 - > How are each of these traits important to you?
- What did shouting “Hosanna” mean to the crowd on Palm Sunday?
- Encourage a few people to share what worship personally means to them (how it may help you connect with God, to hear Him, to set your heart right, etc.).
- We are the temple of the Lord (1 Cor. 3:16). Take a moment for each person in the group to silently consider what corrupt “tables” in your heart might need to be kicked over and cleansed by Jesus.
- Have a couple people share generally how they feel when they have been forgiven of sin and washed clean in their lives by the blood of Christ.

PRAY that your group members would be able to welcome Jesus, surrender to Jesus, and worship Jesus this week. Pray also for any needs in your group.