

Face like flint
Palm Sunday 2025

[Luk 9:51-56 ESV] 51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 And they went on to another village.

[Mat 21:1-11 ESV] 1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" 10 And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" 11 And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

I. Intro

A. We have 1 message:

1. We have 1 hope: Christ
2. We have 1 mission: the mission of Christ
3. We have 1 desire: to be the church He has called and gifted us to be

B. Our message has to be clear, so let me clearly state it:

1. Purpose Statement: Our Purpose is to GLORIFY God with our lives while CONNECTING with all people, directing them to the resources to help them become mature BELIEVERS in Christ who realize their POTENTIAL in God's plan and TESTIFY of His love.
2. Simply put...we want to change the world with the LOVE of Christ

C. We are a church that must:

1. Be obedient to Christ
2. Share the gospel with a lost world
3. Share ourselves with the body
4. Serve the cause and plan of Christ

D. Why do we want to do this?

1. The cause of Christ compels us
2. The Love of Christ compels us
3. We can see God had a plan and we are now a part of it
4. We are changed

E. What we do on Sunday mornings is sacred and should be treated as such

1. I ask you to join me as we marvel at the word of God
2. I ask you to open your heart to the truth and allow it to speak to you today

F. Palm Sunday is a special day:

1. Prophecy fulfilled
2. Miraculous events
3. A huge statement about our savior

II. Text

A. Verses 1

1. real places, real people
2. real events unfolding just as God said it would as he spoke through the prophets.
- B. Verse 2-3
 1. This is supernatural and a fulfillment of prophecy
 2. The donkey was an interesting choice, humble and simple
- C. Verse 4-5
 1. Prophecy is an interesting study
 2. What was promised from old, takes place in the new testament and today as a reminder of the trust and faith we should have in Christ.
- D. Verses 6-11
 1. a celebration fitting for a king!
 2. and the people asked, "Who is this?"
 3. people are still asking that question today, so how do you respond?
 - a) do you respond by demonstrating He is irrelevant?
 - b) do you respond by demonstrating He is important?
 - c) or do you respond by demonstrating HE IS LORD?

III. Points

A. Fulfillment

1. The Fulfillment of Prophecy is an important aspect of this story:
 - a) This was not by chance, but by God's directive
 - b) God chose this, and then set up thousands of years of fulfillment
2. Zechariah 9:9, 530BC
 - a) 560 from prophecy declaration to fulfillment...ONLY GOD
 - b) [Zec 9:9-13 ESV] 9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. 11 As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. 12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. 13 For I have bent Judah as my bow; I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior's sword.
3. The Prophet rightly declared the King on a donkey's colt
4. Jesus was the fulfillment of the promise that Israel had been looking for.
5. **Remember: Your ability to be saved is a fulfillment of God's plan.**
6. Gospel message:
 - a) Jesus lived as an example and a fulfillment
 - b) Jesus died as a sacrifice and did it on purpose (Luke 9:51)
 - (1) [Isa 50:6-7 ESV] 6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. 7 But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
 - (2) [Luk 9:51 ESV] 51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.
 - c) Jesus was raised again to new life, and we have that promise today as well.
 - d) You can be forgiven of sin, you can begin rebuilding life, you can have peace...
 - (1) but it takes surrender to God's plan rather than strength of man
 - (2) it takes faith rather than force
 - (3) its by grace rather than good works

B. Humility

1. The Donkey was not a glamorous steed, or fitting for a King

2. It was humble, and was a representative of peace, not war
3. Jesus came to rescue people differently than they expected
4. **Salvation also comes differently than human nature assumes:**
 - a) we cannot save ourselves
 - b) we cannot earn our way
 - c) we can only trust in Christ by faith to experience this blessing.
5. **the most frustrated Christians I'm aware of are those who trust Christ for salvation, and then walk with self righteousness**
 - a) we need to die to self and live for Christ Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
 - b) we need to die daily and take up our cross and follow Him: Luke 9:23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.
 - c) die to sin, become alive in God! Romans 6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

C. Declaration

1. **The Palm Sunday Narrative declares some things of note regarding the identity of Christ:**
 - a) **King: Palm Branches, Son of David**
 - b) **Savior: Hosanna: Save us Now**
 - c) **Priest: He drove the money changers out**
2. He allowed the celebration, and then went to demonstrate whom they were celebrating.
3. He announced His presence, and I'm sure people were standing and watching in shock
4. **Has he ever announced His presence in your life?**
 - a) has he announced His presence with correction?
 - b) has he announced His presence with comfort?
 - c) ARE WE PAYING ATTENTION?
5. If you allow yourself, you can find the peace and blessing of Christ in your life:
 - a) it has been declared through His life, death, and resurrection
 - b) It has been declared through to Holy Spirit's work today
 - c) It has been declared through the victory found only in Christ
 - d) It will continue to be declared through His abiding presence.

IV. Close

- A. **You have the promise and hope of salvation**
- B. **We are challenged to Humble ourself in the Lord and He will lift us up**
- C. Our salvation and His Lordship are declared facts that can bring peace to the most desperate situation.
- D. trust Him today!

Zechariah, like Jeremiah and Ezekiel before him, was priest as well as prophet. He seems to have entered upon his office while yet young (Zechariah 2:4) and must have been born in Babylon whence he returned with the first caravan of exiles under Zerubbabel and Jeshua. It was in the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, that he first publicly discharged his office. In this he acted in concert with Haggai. Both prophets had the same great object before them; both directed all their energies to the building of the second temple. To their influence we find the rebuilding of the temple in a great measure ascribed.