

PALM SUNDAY

In the events leading to Jesus' arrest and crucifixion, different expectations lead people to different responses to what He meant.

- What expectations do we bring for Jesus today?

John's account of events leading up to Palm Sunday:

- **John 11:38-44** - Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.
- **John 11:45-53** - Many believe, but the leaders plot to put Jesus to death.
- **John 11:54-57** - Jesus withdraws for a time and the people wonder if He'll show up for the Passover.
- **John 12:12-19** - Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday).

Faith or Fear? - How will we respond to what Jesus means for us?

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

Zechariah 9:9-13

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.

John 12:12-19

¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵ "Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."