

"FRESH WIND"**Date: April 10, 2022****Speaker: Danny Clinton****PALM
SUNDAY**

at Kessid Church

**Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter that begins the Holy Week...**

- It is when we remember and celebrate the day Jesus entered Jerusalem as Savior and King...

Staying with the theme of worship...

- Worship is as misunderstood a doctrine as any other within the church, and so, can be one of the more difficult things in Scripture to get our heads around.

"Worship is to be more than a temporary, experience-oriented activity on Sunday, after which we revert to a 'normal' life the rest of the week."

- ... This means, contrary to popular belief, worship does not begin and end with the singing portion of our church services.
- A Biblical theology of worship recognizes that worship involves more than externals.
- Instead, a Biblical theology of worship leads to the conviction that worship is a lifestyle, not a moment in time...

(Vs) 1st Cor. 10:31 – "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

- True worship is a constant, inner praise to the God of Scripture, expressed in prayer, in song, in service, in giving, and in living. Basically...

"Entering into worship is living awakened to God's presence wherever you are and praising Him there."

I want to show you this both in Scripture and in real time...

- You see... "The Palm Sunday passage is an incredible picture of what entering into Worship is like."

The Triumphal Entry...

(Vs) Matthew 21:1-17 – "Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives..."

- **Make sure and notice:** That Jesus Received the Worship of The Crowd...He didn't condemn or shut down what they were doing.
- He very much allowed it, and so invited it...

But why? I mean really consider the worship that's happening here...

- It's quite terrible overall! Allow me to explain...

Jesus chose to ride in on a donkey, which directly fulfilled Old Testament prophecy of Zachariah from 500 years earlier...

(Vs) Zachariah 9:9 – "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."

- In Biblical times, it was common for kings or important people to arrive by a procession, riding on a donkey.
- The donkey symbolized peace, so those who chose to ride them showed that they came with peaceful intentions.

But that's not what these people were worshipping...

- Instead, we know... "They were worshipping Him for their desired 'war to come'... When what He was bringing was Peace in the Present."
- Their 'Worship' agenda was not peace related at all. And yet, He received their worship anyways!

God's Word also tells us the people cut palm branches and waved them in the air, laying them out on the ground before Jesus as He rode into the city...

- The palm branches represented goodness, and was symbolic to the people of victory, in their eyes, over their oppressors...
- Instead of the final victory He would soon fulfill over death.

(Vs) 1st Cor 15:55 – "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

"They worshipped Jesus for the lesser victory, when He was bringing the ultimate one."

- He received their worship anyways!
- When the people shouted "Hosanna!" they were hailing Christ as King... "The word 'Hosanna' actually means 'save now.'"
- Though, in their own minds, they waited for a powerful earthly king to save them, God had a different way in mind of bringing true salvation to all who would trust in Him...

(Vs) Romans 10:9 – "...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

- This crowd was worshipping Jesus, so He would claim power on their behalf... When He was there to be the saving power that they all desperately needed to cling to.

Scripture says that He then enters the temple (Church) and pushes out those who aren't there to worship.

(Vs) Exodus 34:14 – "For you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God."

Notice: "When Jesus enters a place that belongs to Him, everything that shouldn't be there gets 'overturned.'"

- And He's still doing this today... Calling out those who have given away what belongs to Him.
- You see, everybody goes to Church... they just change the location; the bar, friends, even family can be a place where people easily misplace their worship.
- And everyone worships a god, they just change his name... Money, Power, Popularity, Prestige, and so worship those things instead.
- These things aren't meant to hold our worship... No wonder they are constantly crumbling around us in disappointment.

The passage then wraps up with the local Church leaders saying...

(Vs) Matthew 21:16 – "Do you hear what these (Children) are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes" ...

- "YES!" ... He receives this worship as well!
- It seems... "When it comes to receiving worship, Christ pushes out the shrewd and receives the messy."

Can you see how inadequate all this worship is?

- Most of our current favorite celebrities get better worship than this!!!!!!
- And, to think this "Triumphal Entry" is also Jesus' first step toward His death.
- This is the road to suffering and sacrifice... When He should have been worshiped the most!!!
- Instead... this is the worship He gets? And, more miraculously yet, the one and only God of the universe receives it completely!
- **This is why Palm Sunday is an incredible picture of what entering into Worship is like...** Put yourself in the crowd that day... Then imagine that crowd filling this room we are in right now.
- Now, allow all your own human inadequacies, fears, and failures to come bubbling forth... Try and feel your place in the crowd that is this sea of humanity we all are still part of today.
- From that authentic place, now imagine yourself lifting your worship to Him. Don't play or try to refine it!

Can you imagine what might pour forth?

- **Statement:** Where you might worship Him for your own desired 'War to come?' ... When what He's offering is peace in the present.
- **Statement:** Where you might worship Him for a lesser victory... When what He's offering is an ultimate one.
- **Statement:** Where you might be worshipping God to claim His power on your behalf... When what He's offering is the saving power you so desperately need.
- **Statement:** Where you might be worshipping Christ shrewdly, when all He wants to receive is your messy praise?

You and I don't have to imagine, for it is still very much how we enter worship, yet still today!

- **Remember...** "Entering into worship is living awakened to God's presence, wherever you are, and praising Him there."
 - And yes! The one and only God of the universe still willingly receives you... completely!
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MESSAGE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

PONDER

1. What about the message did I feel...
 - Inspired about?
 - Convicted by?
 - Sadness, grief, or loss about?
 - Curious about?
 - Hopeful for?

EXPERIENCE

2. Did anyone have a "Wow!" moment during the message that resonated in you? If so, what was it? (Could be a new scripture/Bible story you've never heard, a profound concept, etc.)

LEARN

3. What new/fresh thing did I learn about God? What new/fresh thing did I learn about myself?

APPLY

3. How can I challenge myself this week with what I've learned? What might responding well look like?