

Though Jesus came through the east gate of Jerusalem a hero, it would only be a short time before:

- He overturns the tables of the money changers in the temple, bringing about renewed efforts to kill him.
- He is betrayed by one of his own and abandoned by his closest friends.
- He must face down the spiritual darkness of this world.

Over the next week, consider:

How will you put aside your own way and receive the way of God's Kingdom in this season of your life?

How will you rise above the expectations people place on you as a follower of Jesus Christ?

How will you lean on God's Spirit to sustain your cross life?



sermon notes

Cross Life: Jesus as Sovereign
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CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS

A Little Background on Palm Sunday:

- Jesus traveled to Jerusalem to observe the law and participate in the Passover of the Jewish people.
- Jesus did this knowing full well that the Pharisees, his religious opponents, plotted to kill him.
- The Jewish people expected a political Messiah who would overthrow their Roman oppressors and renew the nation.
- Jesus refused to compromise his identity and mission.

Mark 11:1–11 (NIV)

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'"

They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields.

Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Questions to Consider:

- Why did Jesus ride a donkey down the Mount of Olives when he was only a half mile from Jerusalem?
 - It was a symbolic act that goes back to _____.
 - It was a fulfillment of _____.

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey. Zechariah 9:9 (NIV)

- What does “Hosanna!” mean and what do the palm branches signify?
 - “Hosanna!” means _____.
 - The crowd was quoting Psalm 118:26 when they shouted, *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*
 - Palm branches were a sign of victory.
- Why is David significant to our story?
 - David would have lost the battle to Goliath if he tried to be King Saul. He was true to whom God created him to be.
 - Jesus has the same Spirit—a man after God’s own heart.

Three Parades on a Single Day:

- Parade #1: Jesus enters Jerusalem with great acclaim.
- Parade #2: _____.
He was the Roman Governor of Judea who rode into Jerusalem with 1000 armed Roman soldiers in all their regalia. His parade was designed to be a show of force to suppress any notion of rebellion during the Passover.
- Parade #3: _____.
He was the Jewish puppet-king of the Romans. He entered with his royal troops. His supporters lined the streets cheering.

The Golden Gate of Jerusalem:

- Jesus almost certainly entered through the east gate since he came from the east (Bethphage and Bethany) and went directly to the temple courts, which is on the east side of the city.
- The east gate was the subject of prophecy and was sealed in 1517 by the Turkish king in an attempt to prevent the Messiah from returning as foretold.

I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east . . . The glory of the Lord entered the temple through the gate facing east. Ezekiel 43:2,4 (NIV)

This gate is to remain shut. It must not be opened; no one may enter through it. It is to remain shut because the Lord, the God of Israel, has entered through it. Ezekiel 44:2 (NIV)

HOW DOES JESUS AS SOVEREIGN DEFINE CROSS LIFE?

Cross Life involves embracing an understanding of sovereignty rooted in _____ and receiving the way of _____.

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. Luke 4:18–19 (NIV)

Cross Life requires us to _____ the expectations people may place on us.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Cross Life is only sustained by _____ of our heavenly Sovereign.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22–23 (NIV)

Answer key

- Why did Jesus ride a donkey down the Mount of Olives when he was only a half mile from Jerusalem?
 - It was a symbolic act that goes back to **KING DAVID**.
 - It was a fulfillment of **PROPHECY**.
- What does “Hosanna!” mean and what do the palm branches signify?
 - “Hosanna!” means **SAVE US NOW**.

Three Parades on a Single Day:

- Parade #1: Jesus enters Jerusalem with great acclaim.
- Parade #2: **PONTIUS PILATE**.
He was the Roman Governor of Judea who rode into Jerusalem with 1000 armed Roman soldiers in all their regalia. His parade was designed to be a show of force to suppress any notion of rebellion during the Passover.
- Parade #3: **KING HEROD ANTIPAS**.
He was the Jewish puppet-king of the Romans. He entered with his royal troops. His supporters lined the streets cheering.

HOW DOES JESUS AS SOVEREIGN DEFINE CROSS LIFE?

Cross Life involves embracing an understanding of sovereignty rooted in **LOVE** and receiving the way of **GOD’S KINGDOM**.

Cross Life requires us to **RISE ABOVE** the expectations people may place on us.

Cross Life is only sustained by **RECEIVING THE SPIRIT** of our heavenly Sovereign.