



“Crucified for Our Sins”
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FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE CRUCIFIXION – A VICTORY ANTICIPATED

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!” John 12:12-13 (NIV)

Palm Branches Represent: _____

Hosanna Means: _____

FLASH FORWARD TO EARLY FRIDAY MORNING (7:00 AM)

Then they led him away to be crucified. Mark 15:20 (NLT)

How did we go from “Hosanna!” to “Crucify Him!”?

- The first thing Jesus did when he entered Jerusalem was overturn the tables of the money changers in the temple. This brought about renewed efforts to kill him.
- The Jewish people expected a political Messiah who would overthrow their Roman oppressors and renew the nation. His teachings that week likely gave the people pause to doubt.
- Jesus was betrayed after the Passover Seder meal by one of his own and abandoned by his closest friends. This led to his trials before the Sanhedrin and Pilate, and his sentence of death.

The Reason Behind All of It: The Triple Alliance of Evil

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE OF EVIL

1. The enemy _____ us / The _____.
2. The enemy _____ us / The _____.
3. The enemy _____ us / The _____.

On this dark day, evil threw everything it had at Jesus.

THE LONGEST WALK – THE VIA DOLOROSA (7:00 to 9:00 AM)

- After his flogging, the Roman soldiers forced Jesus to walk the longest possible route through Jerusalem to Golgotha (The Place of the Skull) as an example for the people.
- This route is called the Via Dolorosa (The Way of Suffering).
- Jesus bore the full weight of the crossbeam he would be nailed to in just two hours. The beam could weigh up to 100 pounds.

A passerby named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.) And they brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"). They offered him wine drugged with myrrh, but he refused it. Mark 15:21-23 (NLT)

- Imagine carrying the implement of someone else's execution on your shoulders. The weight of it. What would be going through your mind? Simon didn't have to imagine.
- When they arrived at Golgotha and the crossbeam came off his shoulders, did Simon stay? Or did he turn away and return to business as usual?

One cannot carry the weight of a cross along the way of suffering and emerge unchanged.

THE CROSS OF GOLGOTHA (9:00 AM TO NOON)

Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross. They divided his clothes and threw dice to decide who would get each piece. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. A sign announced the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews." Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Ha! Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, save yourself and come down from the cross!"

The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!" Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him. Mark 15:24-32 (NLT)

The Crucifixion

- The discovery of Yehonnan's bones, a man who was crucified, gives us new insights into how crucifixion was done.
- The wrists (not the palms) would receive the nails and the feet would be nailed against both sides of the cross.
- Death would come by suffocation.

The Revolutionaries

- Some translations label the men on either side of Jesus as criminals or thieves. Few of us can relate to this.
- Seen as revolutionaries or rebels against Roman rule, we *can* relate by reflecting on how we rebelled against God's rule.
- Self-rule is only sin-rule, a false freedom that leads to death.

The Mockers

- The mockers taunted Jesus to come down off the cross as if that was a true show of strength.
- The reason we believe in Jesus today is because he refused to come off the cross, revealing there are no limits to God's love.

THE CROSS OF GOLGOTHA (NOON TO 3:00 PM)

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!"

Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

Mark 15:33-39 (NLT)

The Darkest Moment

- Jesus quotes Psalm 22:1, feeling completely cut off from God the Father because the full weight of this world's sin comes to rest on his shoulders.
- Jesus clings to his knowledge of the Father's presence and goodness even though he can't feel it.

The Loud Cry (*Tetelestai*) – "It is finished!"

- The Greek word, *Tetelestai* in John 19:30 is simply translated "finished." It also means completed or fulfilled.
- The darkest moment passes, and Jesus is fulfilled and completed in his purpose to live out the requirements of the Law once for all.
- The curtain represents the barrier between God and humankind.

WHAT DOES THE CRUCIFIXION MEAN FOR US TODAY?

1. The Lord is _____ us, overcoming the world around us.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 (NLT)

2. The Lord is _____ us, overcoming our flesh/sin.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

3. The Lord is _____ us, overcoming the devil's rule.

I have been given all authority in heaven and earth.

Matthew 28:18 (LB)

THE CROSS IS A VICTORY REALIZED ONLY THROUGH RESURRECTION

ANSWER KEY:

Palm branches represent: **Victory**.

Hosanna means: **Save us now**.

1. The enemy **around** us / The **world**.

2. The enemy **within** us / The **flesh**.

3. The enemy **above** us / The **devil**.

1. The Lord is **with** us, overcoming the world around us.

2. The Lord is **within** us, overcoming our flesh/sin.

3. The Lord is **over** us, overcoming the devil's rule.