**Palm Sunday**

 *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,[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mt+21&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23829a)*] 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.” (Matthew 21:1-11, ESV)*

 Every day a Palm Sunday happens.

 Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters in Christ as we celebrate Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. This event is so rich in symbols that it is worth it to read it with an allegorical eye, so that we can see just how God “does a Palm Sunday” with us, every single day. Of course, Palm Sunday was the beginning of our Lord’s final week of his bodily ministry, but the idea and image of entering into Jerusalem already presents us with plenty to think about as believers. Therefore, today we’re going to see just how the Palm Sunday event is a constant spiritual reality in life. Again, every day, there’s a Palm Sunday happening. Let’s see how that is…

 Jesus shows up every day in front of us to be involved – but it is up to us to accept His entrance. The Lord prepared His entrance well. The purpose of the arrangement was to remind the people of the word of the Lord, so that they would connect the event with His Messianic identity. Specifically, He sat on a donkey to say that His was a new kind of kingdom. The people laid clothing on the ground, but some cut off palm branches, which showed that some had a different understanding of His entrance. Greeting someone riding toward Jerusalem with branches was usually done for revolutionary leaders. This latter type of greeting shows us that part of the crowd had not understood that Jesus was coming as a humble king, sitting on a donkey and not a royal horse. Still, some were correctly exclaiming “Hosanna”, because it meant, among other things, “Save, O Lord”. It was right that some were calling the Lord “Son of David”. But the city, where the learned, the king, the governor and the 70 ruling Elders and leaders were, did not recognize Him. They asked, “Who is this?” And, painfully, it would seem that even the crowd with Him had not, for the most part, comprehended that Jesus was more than a prophet. Jesus’ entrance was meet with a mixed response.

 We often speak on the telephone – and sometimes, when a loved one or acquaintance calls, they don’t need to tell us who they are. “What are you doing today?” “When are you coming home?” And woe to us if we do not recognize our loved one – can you even picture that?! But they said, “Who is this?”

 The Lord presents Himself to us every day. Each day, the Lord comes humbly, proclaiming His Kingdom. He proclaims His salvation every day. He travels to enter our heart, our center, to cleanse it as He would cleanse the Temple in Jerusalem after entering it. But all of that is contingent upon our response to Him. Do we recognize Him every day? Are we alert when He is knocking on the doors of our heart? With the help of the Holy Spirit, we certainly are able to recognize Him. But He comes in a new way. He shows up like the Scriptures, on a donkey instead of a recognizable and respectable war-horse. He presents Himself to saves us and transform us – to crucify our inner life and raise us up from death.

 Thus, the Lord shows up at the gates of our life every day. But I ask again: Do we recognize Him, or are we still asking, “Who is this?”

 May God, by awakening our senses, put Hosannas in our mouths to recognize Jesus, especially because He shows up humbly. Jesus shows up every day in front of us to be involved – but it is up to us to accept His entrance. Every day a Palm Sunday happens.

 May the Lord awaken us to His knocking, and self-presentation at the doors of our lives. The Lord bless you all. Amen.