



Bible Reading and Words of Encouragement

Elder Carvel Bennett

Interim Director, Christian Education and
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Sunday, April 5, 2020 Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village ahead 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, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately.[a]" 4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

5 "Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8 A very large crowd[b] spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

11 The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Scripture Lesson & Reflection

Jesus knows what is going to happen to him eventually in Jerusalem. We don't know what is going to happen during and after this pandemic, but we perhaps still need to sing "hosanna". Hosanna (Heb.) hosi'ah-na' - "save"

The crowds outside Jerusalem were singing and calling Jesus "Son of David, the one who comes in the name of the Lord". Inside Jerusalem the city was "in turmoil" (Shaken) calling him condescendingly "the Prophet Jesus from Nazareth".

The crowds outside - mostly Galilean i.e. most of us today, the poor, the middle/working class, the 10 million that just filed for unemployment benefits, the 11 million undocumented, the 27.5 million uninsured, the healthcare workers asking for PPE's.

Inside the city - mostly Judean i.e. the church and political leadership, the wealthy and well connected, the 1%.

Let us be like the crowds outside the city - despite the uncertainties, the social distancing, the fear and misinformation, the furloughs and layoffs - staying faithful, looking out and caring for one another and keep giving thanks.



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Psalm 118:1-2, 28-29

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.



Scripture Lesson & Reflection

*Bible Readings and Words of Reflection is just another way of
keeping us engaged during this time
of Social Distancing and Staying in Place.*

*While it is by no means as in depth as
our usual bible study sessions,
I trust you will find this just as meaningful.*

*I will post one each Wednesday
using the bible verse(s) that will be preached by
Pastor, Rev. Dr. Lomax the upcoming Sunday.*

~ Elder Carvel Bennett ~