



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“HOUSE OF NATIONS”

Ps. James Lowe – April 9, 2017

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- If you were to be interviewed on national television knowing that millions of people would be watching you, what would you say? How would you conduct yourself? What would you wear?
- How do you respond when people praise or compliment you?
- Have you ever been in a march or a procession? If yes, what did you march for? If not, is there a specific reason you have never done it?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org>

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them, and he will send them at once.’” This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, “Say to the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!” And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.” And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant, and they said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read, “‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise?’” (Matthew 21:1-16)

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of what Christianity has come to call Holy Week. On the first day of the week that Jesus would be betrayed, he chose to enter into Jerusalem as the multitude welcomed him. Historians estimate that approximately two million people were in Jerusalem for

that Passover. Jesus carefully chose every word, action and response, as the eyes of history were set on him.

1. **Stage.** God has set the stage of history for Christ to enter into Jerusalem. The multitude was there with expectation as to what would happen. The donkey and her colt were ready for him to ride. Jesus didn't have to say much; the whole scene was prophetic. The welcoming he received as he entered into the city recognized he was the promised king. The animal he chose to ride (a donkey instead of a horse) said that he was coming in peace. The colt that had never been ridden (and humanly speaking wouldn't have been able to be ridden in the middle of a loud multitude by anybody else) demonstrated that he was in control of all things. Jesus fulfilled what was prophesized about Him centuries before, because God had set the stage for Him to do so.

Many times, we have a word from God that we expect to be fulfilled. We jump from place to place trying to make things happen, and we don't realize that God has positioned us in the right place. We don't have to explain ourselves too much when you are where God has called you to be. Jesus was staged by the Father to be the King of the world. And that is who He is.

2. **Shouting.** When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people cried out Hosanna. Children were calling him Son of David, recognizing his Kingship. Matthew said that the whole city was "stirred up" or "in turmoil". Many gathered palm branches as if putting a red carpet for him to pass. Children praised him. Yet there's no better example of the fickleness of human celebrity than Palm Sunday. Some of the people shouting Hosanna would later shout "Crucify him". Jesus responded to the shouting by standing firm with in his purpose. Palm Sunday is an incredible parable of the mismatch of what we think we need and what God has provided. What we think we need is almost always shallow. Jesus gave the people what they really needed, and it largely exceeded what they wanted. When we are start following Jesus, everybody starts shouting what they think we should do. The world wants us to stop shouting the praises of Jesus, and join all kind of causes.
3. **Standing.** While everyone seemed to have an opinion about Jesus and what he should do next, Jesus entered into the temple and cleansed it from the vendors that were hindering gentiles from praying and serving God in the temple. He knew he was the King, yet he didn't overthrow the romans. He "overthrew" those who were hindering people from worshiping God. He stood up for the very purpose of his calling: to die and call all peoples to serve him (John 12:32).

We live in a time when the world seems to try to tell the church what it should do. Everybody seems to have an opinion as which cause or political party we should stand behind. Yet we are called to stand for what God has call us to do and be. Be a people that shine His light to all nations. A people that facilitate prayer.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- What can you do to fulfill his purpose at the stage God has set for you?
- How can you stand up for what God has called you to be and do?
- How can you collaborate to make our church a house of prayer for ALL the nations?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God will use you to lift up his name in the place where he has placed you.
- That God will give you wisdom to stand firm in his calling and purpose.
- Praise God recognizing that he is the King worthy of all creation to praise him.