

MIDWEEK MISSIVE 04/12/19

This weekend we, along with millions of Christians around the world, will celebrate Palm Sunday. On the surface of it, it was a great triumphal entrance in Jerusalem for Jesus and his followers. Historians tell us that the entrance rivaled the entrance of the conquering heroes, the Maccabeans, years before. The Maccabeans came as valiant vanquishers, on prancing steeds and the people met them with shouts of acclamation and palm fronds and coats laid down on the road in order to keep the dust from choking people and animals.

Jesus entered much the same way, but on a young donkey, a colt. The people may not have recognized the symbolism but Jesus was signaling that he came not as a warrior king, but as the Son of God, come to set them free spiritually.

Next week we will remember the horror that followed Palm Sunday, but what about the time leading up to Palm Sunday. Jesus was fully human and fully divine. He knew what pain he was to endure. Three times leading up to the entrance into Jerusalem, Jesus told his disciples of what was to come. But they either did not understand, or did not want to believe it.

But it was on Jesus mind, along with other things. The Gospel of Mark tells us that leading up to the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus was busy with wrapping up his earthly ministry. Among his activities was teachings on morality and the importance of not letting accumulated wealth be more important than God. He welcomed the children and their parents with words of blessing. He restored the sight of the blind Bartimaeus and reminded his disciples that he had come to serve, and if they were to serve God, they must serve God's people. He predicted his death for the third time. And he set his sights of Jerusalem.

I cannot begin to understand the feelings he must have been feeling. Preaching, teaching, counseling, all the while knowing that the events of Holy Week were in front of him. How do we honor those feelings and events? By heeding Jesus words, by recognizing the harsh reality that awaits him. By preparing ourselves to witness the horror, once again. Because until we understand the depth of the pain, we cannot truly appreciate the joy of Easter.

Meanwhile, at the chapel: please bring back your filled our "Great Room" survey by this weekend so the tabulation can begin. If you haven't picked one up, come this weekend and fill one out. If you are unable to make it, email the church at candleberrychapel@gmail.com and request a survey.

**Be peaceful,
Rev. Brad**

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