

## It's Your Choice

John 12:12-19 Sunday AM, April 2, 2023

**Prelude – Scripture: John 12:12–19** On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup> took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and *began* to shout, “Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel.” <sup>14</sup> Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, <sup>15</sup> “FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY’S COLT.” <sup>16</sup> These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him. <sup>17</sup> So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify *about Him*. <sup>18</sup> For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him.”

It was just days before Passover, the time of sobriety, ritual, and celebration as Israel remembered their time of bondage in Egypt and thought of God’s deliverance—calling out a people for Himself as the angel of death executed judgment, sparing those on whom the blood of the lamb was sprinkled on the doorposts. What a sobering but powerful deliverance, and it was to be celebrated each year. So once again, the people descended on Jerusalem, including Jesus and His disciples who had just been nearby in Bethany with Mary, Martha, Lazarus. What a stir ensued as during the evening meal, Mary anointed Jesus’ feet with perfume. Judas had a problem with this offering—“Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?” “Let her alone,” Jesus said, “so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me.” Sobering words of impending death surrounding this holy day where death led to life and freedom. And the crowds came, because they wanted to see Lazarus whom Jesus had raised from the dead. even as crowds came to see Lazarus because Jesus raised Him from the dead. And now it is Palm Sunday, and the crowds assembled for Passover have heard Jesus was coming to Jerusalem and all His teaching, miracles, and actions led to a stir. This man is not merely a prophet. He is the One prophesied to come. And taking palm branches, the symbols of victory, triumph, and peace, they quoted Scripture and said, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” Worship the King of Glory!

### \*Hymn #173: All Glory, Laud and Honor

What a celebration. Ancient Scripture fulfilled. And while they were stirred up and not entirely reliable in their praise, this WAS the One prophesied. <sup>15</sup> “FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY’S COLT.” And while the disciples did not understand it all at the first, **when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him.** It happened inside history. The eternal God keeps His promises. He is present and working. Worship God for His trustworthy word and trust/live by His word!

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): Ancient Words

**\*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: He’s Still the King of Kings Scripture: Zechariah 14:1–21** <sup>(NASB95)</sup> Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. <sup>2</sup> For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. <sup>3</sup> Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. <sup>4</sup> In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. <sup>5</sup> You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, *and all the holy ones with Him!* <sup>6</sup> In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. <sup>7</sup> For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light. <sup>8</sup> And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. <sup>9</sup> And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be *the only one*, and His name *the only one*. <sup>10</sup> All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin’s Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king’s wine presses. <sup>11</sup> People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security. <sup>12</sup> Now this will be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth. <sup>13</sup> It will come about in that day that a great panic from the LORD will fall on them; and they will seize one another’s hand, and the hand of one will be lifted against the hand of another. <sup>14</sup> Judah also will fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be gathered, gold and silver and garments in great abundance. <sup>15</sup> So also like this plague will be the plague on the horse, the mule, the donkey and all the cattle that will be in those camps. <sup>16</sup> Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. <sup>17</sup> And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. <sup>18</sup> If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no *rain will fall* on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. <sup>19</sup> This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. <sup>20</sup> In that day there will be *inscribed* on the bells of the horses, “HOLY TO THE LORD.” And the cooking pots in the LORD’s house will be like the bowls before the altar. <sup>21</sup> Every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the LORD of hosts; and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them. And there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts in that day.

### Offering: \*Doxology:

<sup>17</sup> So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify *about Him*. <sup>18</sup> For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign. If you’re here, you too have heard of the works and claims of Jesus and can study and sing of a celebration that goes beyond Palm Sunday. The same Zechariah that prophesied Palm Sunday prophesied other words about Christ that haven’t yet been fulfilled. **“Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley.”** And, **“In that day there will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, ‘Holy to the Lord.’ And the cooking pots in the Lord’s house will be like the bowls before the altar.”** And **“And there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts in that day.”** What do all these words mean? Don’t know exactly, but just like those on Palm Sunday recognized Scripture fulfilled, the rest of God’s Word WILL be fulfilled inside history. Be ready for the rest of His words. He is STILL the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Sing this new version of I Know that My Redeemer Lives.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): I Know That My Redeemer Lives

But not all believed. Today, it’s the Pharisees. You can’t make someone believe. You can present, persuade, love, and pray, but then you can and must live trusting. As we said Wednesday night from II Peter 1, a useful/fruitful life is one that lives trusting God’s words. Do it—if you are wavering in unbelief. Do it if you find yourself apathetic/sluggish. Know His Words—meditate on them, then trust God. He is above your experiences, feelings, ups and downs. His Word comes from Him. You will have to deal w Him as your eternal Judge. Ask for His Word to work in you today as it is preached.

### \*Hymn #337: Pass Me Not

**Message: It’s Your Choice John 12:12-19**

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): I’ve Heard the King \*Prayer