

## Going After Jesus with Excitement!

### Palm Sunday

**As we celebrate Palm Sunday how does the reality of Jesus knowing he is going to die in order that we might live now and eternally change the way we live in this world?**

**Have you ever really been so excited that you couldn't control your exuberance?**

In truth Jesus' ride on Palm Sunday was **ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING MOMENTS FOR THE JEWS, THE DISCIPLES, AND FOR US** since the promised Messiah had arrived after waiting more than 1000 years!



*<sup>12</sup> The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"*

I also love Luke's version: *Luke 9:51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.*

Two **KEY WORDS** from these texts: **CRYING OUT AND RESOLUTELY.**

*The First Truth is that we need to be ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT JESUS, who he is and what he has done.*

*Second Truth comes from Luke's Gospel that says: Jesus RESOLUTELY set out for Jerusalem.*

*(God's Word translation says it best) Phil 2: 6-8 <sup>6</sup> Although he was in the form of God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this equality. <sup>7</sup> Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance. <sup>8</sup> He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross.*

Two Truths cry out to us from these scripture.

#### **1. JESUS' INCREDIBLE CONTROL & CONSTRAINT FOR YOU AND ME!**

This ride into Jerusalem was one of the most exciting moments for you and me ever recorded in history.

**WHY? GOD'S WORD® Translation Romans 5:10**

*If the death of his Son restored our relationship with God while we were still his enemies, we are even more certain that, because of this restored relationship, the life of his Son will save us.*

**UNLIKE ANY OTHER PERSON IN HISTORY WE SEE IN JESUS CHRIST THE DEPTH OF LOVE AND HUMILITY.** So completely did Jesus empty himself, -that he gave up his rights, his honor, his prestige, **SO THAT WE MIGHT COME TO KNOW HIM AND BECOME LIKE HIM.**

**COST #1. WE ARE TO FORFEIT THE WORLD AND ITS PLEASURES.**

*<sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world,<sup>[a]</sup> but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2  
But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33*

**COST #2. WE WILL BE PERSECUTED BY THE WORLD FOR FOLLOWING CHRIST**

*If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. John 15:19*

**COST #3. WE WILL SUFFER IN ORDER THAT OUR FAITH MIGHT GROW.**

*These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:6-7*

**COST #4. WE WILL SUFFER TO BRING GLORY TO JESUS**

*All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 2 Cor 4:15-17*

Suffering for Jesus brings authenticity, the **stamp of approval**, to our message and our walk with the Lord.

**COST #5. WE WILL BE ATTACKED BY SATAN**

*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8*

**COST #6. WE WILL BE DISCIPLINED SO THAT WE CAN BECOME LIKE JESUS.**

*And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." Hebrews 12:5-6*

The cost is high but the **GOAL** is even higher.

Therefore the Bible has tremendous promises for those who walk with Jesus.

*Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him ... James 1:12.*

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind ... 2 Timothy 1:7.*

*I John 5:15 write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.*

As we celebrate Palm Sunday how does the reality of Jesus knowing he is going to die in order that we might live now and eternally change the way we live in this world?

**WE CANNOT BE AT THE FIRST PALM SUNDAY  
TO CRY OUT "HOSANNA, BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD."**

**HOWEVER**

**WE CAN PROCLAIM THESE TRUTHS ALOUD WITH EXCITEMENT:**

**I cry out that I will resolutely set my face toward Jesus to love and follow him the rest of my life.**

**I cry out that I understand the cost of following Jesus and pledge before the Lord that I will pay the price if ever needed.**

**I will cry out to my neighbors, friends, family and co-workers inviting them to know Jesus and become His disciple.**