

When It is Easy to Worship Jesus

Cornerstone Community Church – Pastor Jerry Ernst
March 29, 2026 (Palm Sunday)

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

Palm Sunday teaches us about *praise* and when it is *popular* to worship Jesus. It is easy to *worship* Jesus when the surroundings are right. It is difficult to praise Jesus when enduring opposition.

THE SETTING: PASSOVER - Jesus came to Jerusalem during it.

- Jerusalem swelled in population from 50,000 to 250,000/500,000
- Jews gathered to remember when God “Passed over” their firstborn sons in Egypt (Exodus 12:21-30)

THE INGREDIENTS OF PALM SUNDAY:

DONKEY - Symbol of humility, peace, and Davidic royalty.

- It needed to be YOUNG: Never used before (Numbers 19:2; Deut. 21:3; 2nd Samuel 6:3)
- It needed to be PURE: Unused animals were for religious purposes, not secular uses (Numbers 19:2, 1st Samuel 6:7)
- It displayed KINGSHIP: The preferred mount of Davidic royalty (2nd Sam 18:9, 1st Kings 1:33, 44)

PALM BRANCHES – Symbol of victory!

- BRANCHES/CLOTHING on the road – before Jesus touched the dirt road.
- Leviticus 23:40 - Palm branches were used at *the Feast of Tabernacles*.

THE WORSHIP CRY – Symbol from the Crowd (Vs. 9) - ***Psalm 118:25-26**.

- **HOSANNA** - “*Save now.*” It can also mean, “*Save us.*”
- The cry was Messianic - *The Kingdom of God is here!*

IT IS EASY TO WORSHIP JESUS WHEN...

1) ...Jesus is NEAR - “(6) *The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.*”

- Jesus told the two disciples (vv. 1-2) to go and untie a young donkey and bring it to Him for a special occasion to fulfill what the prophet (Zechariah 9:9) foretold:

“(9) *Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’*”

2) ...Jesus is VISIBLE and EMOTIONALLY Real - “(7) *They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.*”

- The donkey represented *humility* while Jesus rode into Jerusalem in peace.
- The donkey symbolized Davidic royalty and Jesus coming from the family line of David.

3) ...The Crowd is EXCITED - “(8) *A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.*”

SPREAD: (Gk: *strónnuó*): “*to spread, to make a bed, to lay out.*”

4) ...The Crowd is WORSHIPPING Jesus - “(9) *The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,*

‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’

‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’

'Hosanna in the highest!'

5) ...There is OPENESS and NO OPPOSITION - *“(10) When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’”*

- It is easy to worship Jesus when He is widely accepted.

6) ...It is POPULAR to be a Christian - *“(11) The **crowds** answered, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’”*

- It was easy to worship Jesus that day.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO WORSHIP JESUS WHEN...

- ...Jesus seems far away and distant.
- ...Jesus is not easily identified and lifted up.
- ...Excitement is lacking.
- ...Isolated and all alone
- ...There is hardness and great opposition.
- ...It is unpopular to follow Jesus.

Nahum 1:7 - *“God is good, and a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him.”*

Discipleship Questions:

- 1) Do I need a crowd to get me excited about Jesus?
- 2) Do I let crowds determine my level of praise towards God?
- 3) When opposition for following Christ comes, will I follow Jesus then?