

The Paradox of Palm Sunday

Scripture Reading: Katherine Kooiman

Luke 19:36-40

³⁶ As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. ³⁷ When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen. ³⁸ “Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!” ³⁹ But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, “Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!” ⁴⁰ He replied, “If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!”

For many years this scene baffled me...

At best a *temporary triumph* that quickly gives way to disgustingly fickle & selfish whims of people.

“On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem to cheering crowds. Five days later the crowds screamed for his crucifixion. When Christ met the expectations of the crowd, he was their king. When he did not, they shouted for his death!”

The Bleak, Darkness of These Final Days Cannot Be Overstated:

- Hollow Hosannas of the Crowd
- Hateful Confrontations
- Betrayal of His Closest Friends
- Abandonment of His Disciples
- Denial By the One Who Most Strongly Promised His Allegiance
- Mock Trials
- Gross Miscarriages of Justice
- Horrifying beatings and a scourging within an inch of His life
- Crucified, Humiliated, and Mocked

What’s even more astounding is that **He knew all of this was going to happen...** He’d even shared with His disciples the details...

Luke 18:31-34

³¹ Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus said, “Listen, we’re going up to Jerusalem, where all the predictions of the prophets concerning the Son of Man will come true. ³² He will be handed over to the Romans, and he will be mocked, treated shamefully, and spit upon. ³³ They will flog him with a whip and kill him, but on the third day he will rise again.” ³⁴ But they didn’t understand any of this. The significance of his words was hidden from them, and they failed to grasp what he was talking about.

Matthew 26:31-35

³¹ On the way, Jesus told them, “Tonight all of you will desert me... Peter declared, “Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.” Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.”³⁵ “No!” Peter insisted. “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!” And all the other disciples vowed the same.

Why on Earth Would He Do This?!

John 12:23-30

²³ Jesus

replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. ²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. ²⁵ Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. ²⁶ Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

²⁷ “Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But this is the very reason I came! ²⁸ Father, bring glory to your name.”

Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, “I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again.” ²⁹ When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Then Jesus told them, “The voice was for your benefit, not mine.”

This Spectacle Wasn't Random or By Accident...

Jesus is **Intensely Aware and Intentional** About How He Will Meet His Suffering...Carry His Cross

My Friends, there is no way around it...

There is no alternate path...

To be a disciple or Jesus is to follow Him...

“Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am...”

Luke 9:23

“If any of you wants to be my follower, **you must give up your own way**, take up your cross daily, and follow me.”

It means that **the Lord has chosen for you your cross**...your share of suffering...your circumstances

And like Jesus, you follow Him into it...**knowing**...

And yet, **also believing**...that **God will use your share of suffering to draw you and others to Him**...

Silicon Valley...

Stop Chasing Money...

Stop Putting So Much Time Into Building Your Career, Your Business, your Resume...

Stop Chasing Pleasure, Comfort, Entertainment...

Stop Insulating Yourself from Your Pain, and the Pain of Others...

Stop Requiring/Demanding Your Way Instead of the One Chosen For You...

“Pick Up Your Cross Daily”

- Let God Be Seen for Who He Is By Your Willingness to Bear Up Under Suffering, Difficult, Hardships
- Faithfully, Humbly, Selflessly, Trust Him and Serve The Human Race He Died for...
- Let Your Life Be the Paradox That Draws the Curiosity and Awe of those Watching in Darkness...

“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.”

