



PALM BRANCH OR A STONE

Luke 19:28 – 48

March 29, 2026

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MESSAGE NOTES

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!" – John 12:13 (ESV)

As He was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." – Luke 19:37 – 40 (ESV)

The Palm Sunday Question: Will I cry out... or stay silent?

And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." – Luke 19:39 – 40 (ESV)

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
– Zechariah 9:9 (ESV)*

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them ... – Isaiah 11:6 (ESV)

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. – Isaiah 55:12 (NIV)

Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely separate me from His people ... for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." – Isaiah 56:3 – 7 (ESV)

And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers." – Luke 19:45 – 46 (ESV)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This Palm Sunday message focused on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem in Luke 19 and His powerful statement that if people remain silent, even the stones will cry out. It challenged us to consider our own response to Jesus: whether we've grown quiet, distracted, or hardened in heart. Just as the crowds waved palm branches in praise, we are invited to rediscover wonder, break down the "stone walls" of fear and control in our lives, and allow Jesus to bring true transformation in our hearts. As we enter Passion Week, the question is simple: will we respond with worship and surrender, or remain silent like stones?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use as many or as few of these questions as are helpful for your group or family discussion.

- Discussion Starter: If your spiritual life this past week were a sound, what would it be? A loud celebration? Background noise? Total silence? Or maybe chaos?
- What does Palm Sunday reveal about the kind of King Jesus is, especially compared to what the people expected?
- How do palm branches (symbols of victory) and the cross (a symbol of sacrifice) come together in the story of Jesus?
- Read Luke 19:37–40. What stands out to you about the way the crowd responds to Jesus? What are they celebrating?
- Why do you think the Pharisees wanted Jesus to silence the crowd? What does that reveal about their hearts?
- Read Luke 19:45–46. Why does Jesus go straight to the temple and overturn the tables? What does this say about His priorities?
- What are some “stone walls” (fear, pride, control, distraction) that can build up in our hearts and keep us from responding to God?
- In what ways can we unintentionally become “silent” in our faith, either in worship or in sharing with others?
- What would it look like for you personally to “cry out” in worship this week, not just in church but in everyday life?
- As you head into Passion Week, what is one step of surrender you sense God inviting you to take?
- Who is one person in your life you could invite to Easter or intentionally reach out to this week? Pray for them, and offer prayers of praise as we approach celebrating the resurrection on Easter Sunday.