

**“A Borrowed Donkey, Used Clothes, & Dead Branches!”****1. Intro:****1.1. Communion:**

1.2. **Lithuanian** folk saying, "**Bread** cries, when eaten by a **lazy** man".

1.2.1. It referred to **how difficult** it was to produce bread, from sowing to baking, in antiquity. [I believe we can also say...]

1.2.2. "**The communion Bread** cries, when eaten by an **unsaved** man".

1.2.3. Because there is no understanding of **how difficult** or **how grueling** it was on our Savior, to become **the Bread of Life!**

1.3. You could say **Jesus died** to become your **companion!**

1.3.1. Because the word **companion** literally means “one with whom bread is shared” (*com* **with** + *pani* **bread**).

1.3.2. He desires to share **His bread** with you, **a meal** with you, **fellowship** with you, but 1<sup>st</sup>...**His life** with you!

1.4. Child of God, Jesus has an invitation for us, “**Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup(eat) with him, and he with me.**” Rev. 3:20

**1.5. Intro:**

1.6. We have **one week left** of Jesus life on earth. This topic being 1 week before his resurrection.

1.6.1. A.K.A. **The Triumphal Entry**, or also, **Palm Sunday**.

1.6.2. **Jesus** now enters **Jerusalem, His city of destiny**.

1.6.3. I wish I could do this better on our **Israel trips** because to me it is a very **emotional place!** (Where often someone flippantly asks, “oh was that which we just walked the Palm Sunday Road?”)

1.6.4. I also remember **Palm Sunday** from growing up as a child in the **Catholic Church**. (explain the Palm Leaf given to each)

1.7. The **palm branch** was a symbol of **triumph** and **victory** in pre-Christian times.

**The Romans** rewarded champions of the games and celebrated military successes with palm branches. - **Early Christians** used the palm branch to symbolize the victory of the faithful over enemies of the soul, as in the Palm Sunday festival celebrating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. **In Judaism**, the palm represents **peace** and **plenty**, and is one of the 4 Species for the Feast of Booths.

1.8. **Why** do you think that in the space of **1 short week** Jesus could go from being **the most popular person** on the planet to **public enemy #1?**

1.9. Jesus, **Why** the Donkey?

1.10. Jesus, **Why** are you crying?

2. **A BORROWED DONKEY, USED CLOTHES, & DEAD BRANCHES! (28-40)**
- 2.1. **THE PREPARATION!** (28-34)
- 2.2. Though it might have been a **triumphal entry** in some peoples eyes,  
I believe it was more of a **personal presentation of the King of Israel in God's eyes.**
- 2.3. **THE CELEBRATION!** (35-38)
- 2.4. **THE CROWDS PREPARE HIS PATH!** (35,36)
- 2.5. As He approaches Jerusalem his following grew.
- 2.5.1. Though welcomed by many, still criticized by the religious leaders.
- 2.6. **THE CROWDS PROCLAIM HIS PRAISE!** (37,38)
- 2.7. There were **3 special groups** in that Passover crowd:
- 2.7.1. **The native Judeans** who were suspicious of Jesus; **the Galileans** who followed Him; and **the visitors** from outside Judea who did not know who Jesus was (Matt.21:10-11 "**Who is this?**").
- 2.8. **So, what's this all about?** –
- 2.9. The **1<sup>st</sup> mention** of a donkey is found in **Genesis 22**, where Abraham saddles his donkey to go to Mt. Moriah to offer his *one and only son* as a sacrifice.
- 2.10. **Judges 5:10** "**You who ride on white donkeys...**" (Song of Deborah; speaking of rich merchants, chieftains). [all thru Judges, the Judges would have their 30 sons on 30 donkeys]
- 2.11. **But here is our answer - Read Zech.9:9**
- 2.11.1. It **wasn't** saying that he was lowly/humble **BY** riding in on a donkey!
- 2.11.2. The Pharisees had an issue with "**Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord**" **because**, what designated him as a **King** was because **he was** riding on a donkey. [to approach Jerusalem this way was approaching high treason against the Roman Power]
- 2.11.2.1. Riding in regal majesty, mounted as kings were mounted!
- 2.11.2.2. At His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming He will ride **the charging white horse of war.**
- 2.11.2.3. Jesus **provoked** this demonstration; He **chose** this mode of transportation!
- 2.12. The statement that "**the crowd that cried 'Hosanna!' on Palm Sunday ended up crying 'Crucify Him!' on Good Friday**" **is not true!**
- 2.12.1. It was primarily **the Jerusalem Jews**, *influenced by the priests*, who asked for His blood (Matt. 27:20).
- 2.13. The phrase **Peace in heaven** is important because, **peace on earth** does not happen until you've made **peace w/God**, i.e. **in heaven!**
- 2.14. **THE DENUNCIATION!** (39,40)
- 2.15. **THE PHARISEES REBUKE & THE SAVIORS REPLY!**
- 2.16. **Rebuke them?** What's happening is so great that if there's **no human voices**, the **stones themselves will give shout!**

### 3. **WHEN GOD CRIED! (41-44)**

3.1. **TEARS!** (41)

3.2. What was Jesus looking for? What did he desire to see?

3.2.1. He was looking for **the lost** (19:10 "I've come to seek & save the lost"); He's looking for **worshippers** (Jn.4:23 "the Father is seeking such to **worship Him**"); He's looking for **fruit** in our lives (13:7 "I've come **seeking fruit** on this Fig tree & find none"); He's looking for **faithful servants** ("I looked for a man among them who would **build up the wall** and **stand before me in the gap** on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none")

3.3. **Q: Why Are You Weeping, Jesus?**

3.3.1. **Wept** - Serious crying here, "the heaving of the bosom, & the sob & the cry of a soul in agony". (Morgan)

3.4. **Imagine** Angels seeing their God cry over rebellious humans???

3.5. **Imagine** seeing in advance, the destruction of a whole city... YOUR city?

3.5.1. So Christ sees their ruin foreseen. Certainty of punishment.

3.6. **Imagine** being aware of where you'll meet your death?

3.7. **Imagine** what the city **was**, & **is now**?

3.7.1. Ps.48:1-3 "Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised, In the city of our God, *In* His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, The joy of the whole earth, *Is* Mount Zion *on* the sides of the north, The city of the great King. God *is* in her palaces; He is known as her refuge."

3.7.2. Now the **city infected**, the **Temple polluted**(no glory, no understanding of their feats), the **people contaminated** (w/sin, & indifference).

3.8. **Imagine** what the city **could have become!** (also, your life!)

3.8.1. They say **love** is blind; but **Divine love** is farseeing!

3.8.2. He sees the **potentiality** of people.

3.9. As He thought of the **terrible judgments** that would come to His people, Jesus **wept over the city**.

3.10. Finding his **newly-appointed pastor** standing at his study window in the church weeping as he looked over **the inner city's tragic conditions**, a layman sought to console him: "Don't worry. After you've been here a while, you'll get used to it." Responded the minister, "Yes, I know. That's why I am crying."

3.10.1. **Q: Have we gotten used to it?**

3.11.(42) The Message Bible, "If you had only recognized this day, and everything that was good for you! But now it's too late."

3.11.1. Jesus was saying that **the way to peace** was standing at their door, but they would not let him in because of the hardness of their hearts.

3.11.2. They preferred to move forward in their **own understanding**, in their **own desires**, and in their **own strength**.

3.11.3. The King of the Jews was a **stranger** in his own house, a fact the apostle confirms, "**He came unto His own, and His own received him not.**" Jn.1:11

- 3.12. **LAMENTATION!** (42)
- 3.13. Jesus came to bring **peace** (2:14), but the people rejected Him and **declared war!**
- 3.14. **PREDICTION!** (43,44)
- 3.15. Pilate and Herod **5 times** had *declared Christ innocent* of the charges brought against Him and seemed determined to release Jesus:
- 3.15.1. The **rulers**, the **priests**, and the **people** united in accepting responsibility for the death of Christ, saying, "**Let his blood be on us and on our children**"(Mt.27:25).
- 3.15.2. **30 years later**, on this very spot, judgment was pronounced against the citizens of Jerusalem. Of the 3,600 victims of the governor's fury, not a few were scourged and crucified! **The house of Annas** was destroyed some years later; **Caiaphas** was deposed 1 year after the crucifixion; and **Pilate** was soon after banished to Gaul and there died in suicide.
- 3.15.3. When Jerusalem fell, her wretched citizens were crucified around her walls until, in the historian's grim language, "**space was wanting for the crosses, and crosses for the bodies.**" The horrors of the siege of Jerusalem are unparalleled in history.
- 3.16. They missed **the time of their visit!** **They wasted their opportunity!**
- 3.16.1. **There is peace with God** for those who **trust the Savior.**
- 3.17. Don't forget the place of **tears** was also the place of **ascension & commission!**
- 3.17.1. (i.e.) Mount of Olives.
- 3.17.2. **Example:** Just like in Joshua 7, where **Achan** had stolen things God had designated for Himself, & hid them in his tent.
- 3.17.2.1. **He was killed there, & the new name for that valley was the Valley of Achor, or the Valley of Trouble!...until Hos.2:15!**
- 3.17.3. Hos.2:15 "**There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor, "a door of hope".** There she will sing as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt."
- 3.17.4. Only God can give **new meaning** to old names, & wipe out painful associations w/old places.
- 3.17.4.1. Here the **Valley of Trouble** where Achan was stoned became a **door of hope!** (a valley of hope)
- 3.17.5. This place of **tears** will become the place of **ascension & commission!**
- 3.18. **Jesus still weeps today!**
- 3.19. Jesus has approached the church, us His people, and is standing outside, because we will not let Him in.
- 3.19.1. He is looking at His people and they **sound like** they know Him, they **look like** they know Him, they are **even doing religious things** for him, yet there He stands without looking in and crying.
- 3.19.2. He knows **each of our hearts** this morning.

3.19.3. Maybe He is saying, “If **you** had only recognized, **even you**, the things for you to have **My peace!** [now you get to finish the end **A** or **B**]

3.19.3.1. [a] “But, now, they’re hidden from you.” Or,

3.19.3.2. [b] And now, today, you’ve accepted My Peace! Welcome!”

3.19.4. Why let Jesus weep?

3.19.4.1. Why stay out from within His out stretched arms?

3.20. **They missed 4 things: (Don’t miss these!)**

3.20.1. [1] **Your day** – your opportunity/time is brief!

3.20.2. [2] **Your peace** – your reconciliation w/God!

3.20.3. [3] **Your eyes** – your life is dependent on “*looking to Jesus*”!

3.20.4. [4] **Your visitation** – your visit with the Savior seeking to save you!

3.20.5. **Be very clear, today is “your day”!**

3.21. **Believers:** Maybe you’ve never led someone to Christ – Maybe because you’ve never let **your heart be touched** like this. Try **sincerely weeping** for the lost 1<sup>st</sup>!