

# THE 4 P'S OF PALM SUNDAY

## MARCH 20, 2016

### **ZECH. 9:9 (NLT)**

**INTRODUCTION:** The stage is set, the curtain rises, and the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry begins. They heard Him preach and teach, saw Him perform miracles, heal the sick, cast out devils, raise Lazarus and drive out the money changers. As He enters the Holy city, 2 million people line the streets laying their cloaks before Him shouting "Hosanna!" This act of homage meant they were declaring Him to be their King and Messiah. **ZECH. 9:9** was being fulfilled before their eyes. Displeased, the Chief Priests and Scribes insisted that Jesus rebuke His disciples. Jesus said "...if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." Being there, we'd think the people deeply loved Him and were deeply committed to Him. Close examination reveals their love and commitment to be shallow. "Hosanna" soon became "crucify Him!"

1. The parallels.
  - A. Three Jewish feasts are fulfilled this week.
  - B. As Jesus entered Jerusalem to be scrutinized by the Chief Priests, Scribes and by Pilate, thousands of lambs are being examined for spots and blemishes.
  - C. Pilate finds no fault in Him. **JOHN 19:4, 1 PET. 1:18-19**
2. The perceptions.
  - A. The Jews were more interested in His power than His person. **JOHN 12:9**
    - "If He could raise Lazarus, He could deliver us from Rome, give us a better life, and meet all our needs."
  - B. The religious leaders wanted Jesus and Lazarus dead. **JOHN 12:10-11**
    - How could they be blind to the fact that if Jesus raised him once, could He not raise him again?
  - C. The Greeks perception was correct. **JOHN 12:20-22**
    - They were interested in His person, and wanted to fellowship with Him to learn from His wisdom.
    - God wants us to seek His face, not His hand; to seek His presence not His presents. **JOHN 12:23-26**
3. The praise. **JOHN 12:12-13**
  - A. The people - Waving palm branches was a sign of victory and joy. The Jews had a saying "If a man take a palm tree branch in his hands, we know that he is victorious."
  - B. Jesus - He received the praise because He is their conquering King and Messiah. He doesn't tell them to be quiet about who He is. He tells them to shout praise openly.
  - C. The religious leaders – **JOHN 12:42-43** – Many believed He was the messiah but wouldn't confess Him before men. They wanted the praise of men, not God! They feared being excommunicated. **JOHN 19:38-39**
4. The problem.
  - A. The praise lavished upon Jesus was not because they recognized Him as their Savior from sin. When He didn't meet their expectations, "Hosanna" became "Crucify Him." **LUKE 23:20-23**

**CONCLUSION:** The message of Palm Sunday is:

- Our love for God must run deeper than personal gratification.
- We can praise Him with our lips with our heart far from Him.
- We can't have Jesus on our terms.
- We can be religious zealots but crucially wrong.
- We can't always trust the crowd.
- Miracles and commitment are both necessary.