

“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 1st...**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 **1st 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 2nd 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 1st!