

# Palm Sunday 2023

April 2, 2023

## I. Introduction

- A. Last Sunday we saw Jesus on a white horse as a conquering hero (Revelation 19:11). Today we see Him as a humble servant on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-5).
- B. This entry into Jerusalem we call Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:8).
- C. Please refer to the insert on this very busy week leading up to Good Friday and Calvary.
- D. We will focus today on early Friday morning where the where the trial is in its sixth and final stage before Pilate.

## II. Our Lord's Death

"Christianity is the only major religion to have as its central event the humiliation of its God." Bruce Shelley

"For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." I Corinthians 2:2

- A. A choice: Do you wish Barabbas or Jesus? (Matthew 27:15-23a; Mark 15:6-14; Luke 23:13-22; John 18:39, 40)
  - 1. This is part six of the trial of Jesus
  - 2. We must choose as well.
- B. His crime: "He claimed to be God." (Matthew 27:23b-31; Mark 15:15-20; Luke 23:23-25; John 19:1-16)
  - 1. The two reasons the Jews wanted to kill Jesus – John 5:18
    - a. He broke their Sabbath rules
    - b. He made Himself equal to God
  - 2. We must decide: Is He who He said He was?
    - a. Some said He has a demon
    - b. Some said He was a great Prophet
    - c. Some said He was simply the carpenter's son
    - d. Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of God."
- C. His walk to Calvary (Matthew 27:32-38; Mark 15:21-28; Luke 23:26-34; John 19:17-24)
  - 1. In the NASB, John 19:17 - "The place of the skull". This is the Greek "*Krainion*" and the Aramaic term "Golgotha". KJV Lk. 23:33 - "Calvary" which comes from the Latin word for skull.
  - 2. The first of seven statements Jesus made from the cross: "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." - Luke 23:34
    - a. "All of these people were not ignorant of their guilt, but they were ignorant of the enormity of their crime." Erwin Lutzer
    - b. We have no idea how much our sin will cost us.
    - c. It's like the old balloon payment plan. A little down now and a huge amount later!
  - 3. The inscription on the cross: INRI

- a. This traditionally stated the crime which led to the crucifixion.
- b. "I" esus = Jesus  
"N" azarenus = of Nazareth  
"R" ex = King of  
"I" udaeorum = the Jews

- D. His first three hours on the cross (Matthew 27:39-44; Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:35-37, 39-43; John 19:25-27)
  - 1. A repentant robber. Jesus' second words from the cross
    - a. The first to the Father - the second to a sinner – John 3
    - b. "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:43
  - 2. Jesus' third saying was to His mother: "Woman behold your son." And to John: "Behold your mother." – John 19:26,27
- E. His last three hours on the cross (Matthew 27:45-50; Mark 15:33-37; Luke 23:44-45a, 46; John 19:28-30)
  - 1. Darkness on the earth from 12-3 led to His final four sayings:
    - a. Number 4: "My God my God why have you forsaken me." – Matthew 27:46
    - b. Number 5: "I am thirsty." – John 19:28
    - c. Number 6: "It is finished." – John 19:30
    - d. Number 7: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." – Luke 23:46
  - F. Some awesome things take place (Matthew 27:51-56; Mark 15:38-41; Luke 23:45b; 47-49; John 19:31-37)
    - 1. The temple veil tore
    - 2. The earth shook
    - 3. Tombs were opened
    - 4. Soldiers believe
  - G. His burial (Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42)
    - 1. Joseph of Arimathea - 20 miles NW of Jerusalem
    - 2. "A secret disciple" - an oxymoron, but true. ("A combination of contradictory or incongruous words.")
    - 3. "Nicodemus who had first come to Him by night" - suggesting he was afraid.

## III. Our response

- A. John 3:14-18, 36
- B. Acts 28:23, 24