

# The Triumphal Entry of Peace

John 12:1-19

Today is Palm Sunday, which means it's the day we recall when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, while people cried hosanna, hosanna, waving palm branches in the sky.

Today we celebrate this event around the world, because it's a reminder that the king of Israel, the prince of peace has come, and he is coming back for us soon. This time he's not coming as a suffering servant on a donkey, but as a victorious king on a white horse to deliver his people from the world, from diseases, and from sin, once and for all.

I know in this time, we cannot celebrate together, but we can still rejoice, with one spirit, knowing that *nothing can separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow--not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.* (Rom.8:38)

I am aware that this season has brought a lot of new uncertainties and worries in our lives, like:

- How long is this going to last?
- What will happen to my business? And finances?
- Will my parents be ok?
- Will I be able to graduate on time?
- How long will my kids be out of school, what in the world is homeschool?
- And when will Harris Teeter restock their toilet paper?

We all have a lot of questions, but we must not let these questions, build up into fear. We must not let the weight of our worry replace the presence of peace.

I have titled this sermon “The Triumphal Entry of Peace” because that is who we need to welcome into our midst right now. In our hearts, in our families, and in our nation.

Through our story today God will teach us how to not let worry overwhelm us, but instead, let the triumphal entry of the Prince of Peace, overwhelm our worries.

Jesus says, *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33)

So today I have 3 ways you can...

### *Let Triumph Overwhelm your Worries*

#### **1. By spending on what’s Worthy (v1-8)**

As you are all aware, most of the shelves are all out of toilet papers, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizers, and liquor. Here in NC people already go crazy in preparation for a storm, no more bread, milk on the shelves, and some even lost driving skills.

A lot of people were not prepared for this pandemic, so it allowed our lives to be driven by worry. We spent all our time, energy, and money trying to handle this uncertainty. In these couple of weeks, I have seen the worst in myself, my family, and the people around me, as we are all trying to cope with this situation.

Don’t get me wrong, a certain level of concern is normal, even healthy. It’s very natural that we be concerned about our kids or our neighbor getting the virus; we should be concerned about what is happening around us. The problem is when our worry becomes so weighty that it takes the place of our devotion towards Jesus.

In John 12:1 it records the week before Jesus was crucified, he came to Bethany to celebrate the Passover with Mary, Martha, and

Lazarus, who was just raised from the dead a few days before. So they threw together a party to honor Jesus, because that's what you do in this culture when someone raises you from the dead. It's like the nicest thing anyone had ever done for Lazarus. But in the middle of the party, Mary did something crazy that reveals what she believes is worthy and worth spending everything on.

### **Read John 12:1-5**

This perfume was not just some cheap brand in the back of the closet. This was like a pint of Chanel liquid gold. It was worth a year's wage. Mary broke this bottle and poured it on Jesus' feet, then she used her hair to wipe his feet. Her action says, "Jesus is worthy of everything I have, he is worthy over any worry about tomorrow."

In this story we see a contrast between Mary and Judas, while Mary spent her money on what's worthy, Judas objected, because of his deceptive worry.

Judas suggested that her resources could have gone into better use. "Mary, this is not the time to be spending your money or time or energy on worthless things like this. That's ridiculous!" But I want to show you, that's the whole point. This is the time where our spending speaks the loudest about what we believe is worthy and what it is that we worry about.

You see, Judas brought up a good point, what about the poor? Surely Mary should have saved her money to give to the poor. But as we read on, it reveals that Judas was only thinking about himself.

### **Read v6**

So this insight paints a true picture for us, of a person, who in times of need, is concerned about who Jesus is and a person who only cares about themselves.

Jesus objects this in **v7**

This is the time that all of us should put our priorities in place. Do you really believe that God is still in control? Now what does your time, and resources say about it? Do you think that Jesus is worthy of our spending? Now what does your tithe and offerings say about it?

Don't let your worry get in the way of giving to what's worthy.

Let me show you what this looks like;

- Let's say this is you (empty jar)
- through the course of this month you have fill yourself with the worry of your health. (pour in rice)
- the worry of your job and businesses (pour in rice)
- the overwhelming concern of your income, and money (pour in rice)
- the deep fear of catching covid-19 (pour in rice)
- the uncertainty of future plans, education, and career (pour in rice)
- the lack of essentials like toilet paper.

All of these are real concerns, but they are not worth worrying over in the presence of the Prince of Peace. This week we celebrate our king entering his kingdom. And we are reminded of Jesus telling us to seek **first** his kingdom and his righteousness.

- Because when we fill ourselves with these worries, we will have no room for the things of God, essential things like prayer, the peace of God, serving others, being connected with the church, tithes and offering.
- But when we seek **first** the kingdom of God, understand that **first** doesn't always mean a duration of time, but **first** as in the measure of quality. The essential things. (put balls in first)
- There will be room for everything else. (pour rice in after)

This is what Jesus means when he says seek first my kingdom and my righteousness and all these things, that you have been worrying about, will be added.

That's why in this time we should not set our priorities in things that are not worthy of our worry but turn to Jesus and give to him because he is worthy of our devotion.

## 2. By shouting out in Worship (v9-13)

This one may sound kind of strange, but it's true, we have to drown out our worry with our worship. you see, peace doesn't enter at the absence of worry, no, peace enters in the presence of our worship. Let's look at how the people greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

*They shouted Hosanna! "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"*

This triumphant entry was the day before the chief priests were worried about people believing in Jesus, so they planned to kill Jesus and Lazarus. *"Let's kill Lazarus again because we can't let people know about the miracles."* Let me tell you, there have been times when I told people I knew, of the miracles that God has done in my life and they refused to believe it, they turned it down, because if they believe in the miracle, they have to believe in the miracle worker. And I have to be honest, it hurts, it's discouraging, but as believers we have to be reminded of psalms 30:5, *"weeping may stay for the night, but joy comes in the morning."*

<sup>12</sup> *The very next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!"*

Let triumph overwhelm your  
worries/discouragement/weeping by shouting out in worship!

This wasn't a random chant that they shouted, this was Psalms 118:26, "*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.*" and I know a lot of people wondered what does **Hosanna** mean? Why are we singing **Hosanna**? This word, is a Hebrew word, taken from Psalms 118: 25. "*Lord, please save us! Lord, grant us success!*" [hoshi'a na], literally translates to "save us please", "save us we beg you", "deliver us Lord".<sup>1</sup> This is what the crowd was shouting to usher in the Prince of Peace. And more now than ever, we need to lift up our voices and declare his reign over our worries. To proclaim his presence over ever situation.

So I implore you today, to shout hosanna over your worries, and over those against the faith.

### **3. By spreading the Word to the World (v14-19)**

I think God has given us a very unique opportunity in this time, to be his representatives to a hopeless world. If you have received the hope of the gospel then by all means, you have been given the commission to spread that hope of the gospel to the world.

What our world desperately needs right now is peace and hope, because the one disease that spreads faster than corona is fear and worry. We are all carriers of that disease and the symptoms are contagious.

Peace is the only antidote to worry, and now that's exactly what people are selling for a high price, peace and security. Protection is on high demand, I heard articles this week saying how doctors are running low on protective supplies because it's sold out.

But we have a truth, we have a peace that surpasses all understanding. This truth has been recorded so that we may have hope. I want to read to you Zac. 9:9

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-does-hosanna-mean.html>

*“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion, Rejoice, Daughter Jerusalem; see, your king is coming, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey.”*

This is a prophecy of the day that Jesus enters into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

### **Read John 12:14-16**

You see, his words have been written down years before this event even took place, and his truth was established before the foundation of the earth. We can trust in his words because it is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. His promises are still being fulfilled and his peace still reigns.

That’s why we must share this news to the world because it’s the only good news that will stand the test of time.

V 17-18 shows us what that good news is.

The good news is that Jesus has the power to raise dead people to life. Not just one day in heaven, but right now on earth, he holds the power to resurrect your life from the grave of sin and shame and calls you out of the bondage of depressions, addictions, and worry. He is able to do this because he himself went into our tomb and defeated our death once in for all. Because he walked out of my grave, I will walk in his word.

Once you have witnessed his living words, how can you not tell others about it? It said *the crowd continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him.*” So many people still need to encounter this prince of peace, this living hope, but how can they **hear**, if we don’t **go**, if we don’t continue to spread the word.

Could you imagine if there was a free cure to covid-19, the whole world would line up to obtain it. But here, I would argue, that we possess a cure so much more valuable, we have the cure to death itself, a cure of eternal life. Our devotion to spreading the word to the world should be one of our top concern, in the perspective of eternity nothing else is really worth worrying about.

How are you sharing the good news to the people around you?

Because your life should make the people around you question your peace, and to want what you have. Look how even the Pharisees were

wondering the same thing, *“So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”*

Are you spreading the word in a way that the whole world goes after him?

We don't overcome worry with just any words, actions, or deeds;

- We overcome worry with the word of God.
- We overcome worry through worship.
- We overcome worry by devoting to what's worthy, who is Jesus Christ himself.

Now are you going to welcome him into your heart with praise, or are you going to lock your gates to his entry?

If you surrender yourself to this Prince then his Peace will reign in your heart. And he promises he will come back again, but this time not as a prince on a donkey but as a king on a white horse to deliver his people from evil once and for all. Those who have received him have been counted as righteous, but all who choose in their hearts to reject him will perish with the wicked.

So if you have never welcomed this prince of peace into your heart before, then I encourage you to reach out to someone and talk to them today. If you have received this peace into your gates than what's holding you back from spreading the gospel to others?

Worry has its place, but it does not deserve to rule on the throne of your heart. So let's spend this time to worship him and declare over our hearts who is king.

Because once this king enters, he will stay for good and nothing will be able to separate him.

*nothing can separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow--not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.* (Rom.8:38)