

Save Us Eternally

The day before Jesus swung His leg over the donkey, sat down and rode into town – He was the guest of honor at a dinner party in Bethany (not far from Jerusalem). Martha was there (serving). Mary anointed Jesus' feet with an expensive ointment. And Judas complained that it should have been sold and the money given to the poor (although, being a thief and the keeper of the money bag, he wanted to help himself to it).

The house is full of the fragrance of the perfume. Jesus even says that Mary was preparing Him for His burial. And if all of that doesn't make clear what is about to happen – Lazarus is also at the dinner party – he who WAS dead, but whom Jesus had raised to life again.

No doubt the people who had recently mourned and wept with Martha and Mary at the death their brother Lazarus – were there as well – now full of joy, for he who was dead is now alive!

The very next day – the crowds (including many from the dinner party) – shout their “hosannas.” Lord, “save us now,” they cry out. “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord – this man, Jesus, He is God coming to us! He is the “King of Israel” – the promised Messiah who will sit on David's throne and reign forever. He rides a donkey, like David's son of old.

But Jesus' very own disciples do not understand. The religious leaders, they do not believe – and fear the tide is turning against them.

It will never cease to amaze me how quickly the shouts of the crowds will turn from “Hosanna” – to – “crucify Him.” This very day we go from Palm Sunday to the Passion of Our Lord. This most Holy Week we will walk with Him – hearing the “hosannas” and the “crucify Him.” How can this be?

You know this quite well. You too sing your “hosannas” – “save us now” – but, save you from what? It's easy to get wrapped up in our day to day – and not understand what Jesus is up to (just like His disciples of old).

“Hosanna” comes from your mouth – but your thoughts are on the finances. “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” – but the abuse of your spouse becomes an overwhelming noise. Jesus is the Messiah – but the debilitating illness is what consumes your thoughts, your strength, your life. It’s hard NOT to sing our “hosannas” with only our immediate problems in mind.

And when the finances remain tight – your spouse doesn’t keep the promises to change – the illness only gets worse --- what good is this man riding into town on a donkey? “Crucify Him!”

Dearly beloved – Jesus comes to die “for you.” He hears your cries for salvation – and He comes to rescue you. To cover the stench of your death with the fragrance of His burial in your place. To stand “in the stead and by the command” of His Father in heaven and declare to you – your sin IS forgiven.

He understands your present troubles, your weaknesses, your doubts – for He has become like you in every way – experiencing all the suffering and temptations that you suffer – yet, He is without sin.

For you, living in the midst of all that – He comes to give you a Greater Hosanna – a Greater Salvation – greater than just an elimination of whatever currently assails you. His salvation is from your three great enemies – the devil, the world, and your sinful nature. His salvation is from sin, death, and the wrath of God. His salvation is for eternity – once and for all time.

He who raised Lazarus from death to life – He who Himself was once dead, but now is alive – stands in the midst of you today. “I am the resurrection and the life.” I come to Jerusalem to suffer and die – to put your sin to death, and conquer your death with my resurrection – that you may rejoice to sing, today and for all eternity – “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel.” Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, guards your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.