



11 April 2025

What are you looking for?

On Sunday we celebrate Palm Sunday, Jesus' entry into Jerusalem surrounded by crowds praising Him, shouting and singing.

Matthew's gospel tells us,

"When He [Jesus] had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds were saying, 'This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.'"

(21:10-11)



Yes, this is Jesus of Nazareth, but who is He, really? "What are you looking for?"

Without doubt on that day many, even most of the crowd was focused on their ideas of the long-awaited Messiah. Their cries and actions in the next week show us they were looking for a warrior king to take king David's throne and run the Romans out of Israel.

To be sure, there were some who knew of and had seen Jesus' preaching and miracles. So they were looking for a wonder-working celebrity.

Others were just along for the ride, celebrating the celebration, having a good time without any deep thought or meaning.

So, again, the question, "What are you looking for, *really*?"

Jesus posed that question Himself at the beginning of His ministry. In the first chapter of John's gospel as John the Baptist saw Jesus, he told two of his disciples, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The gospel tells us those two then followed Jesus. Jesus asked them, "What are you seeking?" Jesus looks at the heart, He looks at, asks us to look at our motives, forces us to face ourselves, "What are we looking for, *really*?"

It can be easy for us to be caught up in the palm branch waving by children, the festive singing and ride the wave of a celebration without deep thought and meaning.

So the question, "What are you looking for this Palm Sunday?"

Palm Sunday should lead us to look for a deeper appreciation of what the next week brings — Jesus' arrest, beating, suffering, death, rising from the dead for us. Palm Sunday should also lead us to a deeper appreciation of Jesus coming again. The apostle Paul wrote to Titus,

“the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously, and in a godly manner in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, eager for good deeds” (2:11-14).

The contrast here is striking—to deny ungodliness and live righteously. In light of all Christ has done for us, made us, our view of this weekend should include reviewing the state of our walk with God.

As well, we are to be “looking for the blessed hope” of Christ returning for us. As we live in and engage what is going on and needs to be done today, God says we are to be looking for, looking forward to Christ's return always, including as we celebrate Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. That focus brings us hope and spurs us on to deny ungodliness and to live righteously. As John wrote in his first letter, “everyone who has this hope set on Him [the hope of Christ's return, appearing] purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1:3).

What *are* you looking for on this Palm Sunday?

Pastor Lyle