

## **Hope Fulfilled –Matthew 21:1-11, Zechariah 9:9**

### **Read Matthew 21:1-11**

Palm Sunday is one of the most recognizable moments in the life of Jesus. We imagine the palm branches. The crowds shouting “Hosanna.” The donkey. The road into Jerusalem. But beneath all the celebration is something much deeper. Something quieter. Something more powerful.

### **Palm Sunday is a moment of hope.**

Not the kind of hope the crowds expected. Not the kind of hope wrapped in political power or military strength. But the kind of hope that comes riding on a donkey – humble, gentle, and determined.

Over the past four weeks, we’ve been walking a journey of hope. Hope promised. Hope sustained. Hope anchored.

Now today, we come to the moment where hope doesn’t just get promised...or sustained...or anchored.

Today, hope is fulfilled! The King has come! And He brings a hope stronger than every disappointment, deeper than our suffering, and more lasting than any earthly kingdom.

Let’s walk through this story together by looking first at the promise of –

### **The King Who Comes in Peace – Zechariah 9:9**

Hundreds of years before Palm Sunday, God spoke these words through the prophet Zechariah:

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)*

This was not a vague prediction. This was a specific promise. A humble King. A saving King. A King who brings peace. And on Palm Sunday, Jesus fulfilled that promise with precision. He sends His disciples to get a donkey and then rides the donkey into Jerusalem exactly as Zechariah said He would.

### **But, why a donkey? Show Chosen clip – Why Did Jesus Ride a Donkey? Stop at 3:38**

Jesus did not come to crush His enemies – He came to save them. Hope fulfilled did not arrive with force as many expected. Instead, it arrived with faithfulness, as **Hope Fulfilled!**

When we consider Palm Sunday, it reminds us about the other messages in this series. Remember, if God has spoken it, He will fulfill it. His promises may take time, but they never fail and He never falls short.

Next, consider what it would have been like for the crowd that day. Their expectations were based on -

### **Hope Misunderstood**

As Jesus enters the city, the crowds erupt. They lay down their cloaks. They wave palm branches. They shout, “Hosanna!” which means *Save us now*. NOW!!! Not later. Not eventually. Right Now! Their hope was misunderstood because the crowd wanted a specific kind of salvation.

### **Show Chosen Clip – Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem 6:39**

They wanted Rome gone. They wanted political liberation. They wanted a king on a throne not a King on a cross. They expected a warrior. They expected a revolution. They expected a crown of gold. Instead, they got Jesus, riding an animal of peace, who came as a servant, who came to redeem, who came to save, who came to wear a crown of thorns.

You know, sometimes we misunderstand Jesus too. Sometimes human hopes aim too low. We want relief, we want to escape, we want our circumstances changed. It’s like asking a surgeon to give you pain medicine when what you really need is healing. A life given over to Jesus is one filled with redemption and with transformation. Jesus wants our hearts changed. He didn’t come to numb the pain. He came to cure the disease.

Sometimes, just like the crowd on that day, we too are disappointed with God. Why? Because He doesn’t always meet our expectations.

Palm Sunday also reminds us: Jesus doesn’t always give us the hope we want. Instead, He gives us the hope we need.

### **Hope Fulfilled**

As Jesus entered the city, the whole place was stirred. People asked, “Who is this?” The crowd answered, “*This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.*” (**Matthew 21:11**)

Did you catch that? They still did not understand what kind of King He is. Jesus did not ride into Jerusalem to take a throne. He rode in to take up a cross.

Palm Sunday is not the end of the story. It is the beginning of Passion Week. It’s the first day of preparation. Are you prepared to worship your King this week? I surely hope so. Don’t be confused like the crowd that day. Remember...

The King has come; to suffer on your behalf, to be betrayed by so many, to be lifted up – not on a throne, but on a cross, to sacrifice Himself unto death to conquer all sin, and to fulfill the promise of our Almighty God.

Jesus is our everlasting hope because the deepest hope we need is not political, emotional, or circumstantial. The deepest hope we need is salvation. Hope is not found in a change of government. Hope is not found in a change of circumstances.

Hope is found in a Savior who lays down His life for His people.

Jesus gives us hope not by avoiding suffering, but by entering it. Not by escaping death, but by defeating it. Not by conquering nations, but by conquering sin.

This is the King who comes for you. This is the King who loves you. This is the King who saves you. Do you know Him?

### **Conclusion**

Palm Sunday declares that hope has arrived and that hope is fulfilled. Not in power but in humility. Not in conquest but in sacrifice. Not in the way we expect but in the way we need. And He brings a hope that cannot be shaken.

Today, we are going to do more than remember a parade. We are going to remember a promise kept. A King who came in humility. A Savior who came to give His life.

The same Jesus who rode into Jerusalem on a donkey would soon kneel to wash His disciples' feet. The same hands that received palm branches would soon be pierced by nails. The same crowd that shouted "Hosanna" would soon fall silent at the foot of a cross.

And yet this is where our hope is fulfilled.

Today, we approach the Lord's Table to remember the cost of the hope we celebrate.

## Communion

**Play Song: Is He Worthy (Shane and Shane 4:56)** while people come forward to receive their elements.

Bread – Hold the bread up.

Prayer - Gracious Father, we thank You for the body of Christ that was given for us and for a hope that is not built on our strength, but on His sacrifice. As we receive this bread, help us remember the humility of our King and the love that held Him to the cross. Amen.

On the night He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread. When He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” **(1 Corinthians 11:24)**

The Cup – Hold up the juice cup.

Prayer - Lord Jesus, we thank You for the blood that was poured out for the forgiveness of our sins. Thank You that hope was fulfilled not by avoiding suffering, but by entering it. As we drink this cup, remind us that we belong to You and that our future is secure in Your grace. Amen.

In the same way, after supper, He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” **(1 Corinthians 11:25)**

Close

“For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” **(1 Corinthians 11:26)**

Hope has come. Hope has been fulfilled. And hope will come again.

## **Dismissal**

The reminder of the hope fulfilled today leads us toward the cross. On Good Friday, we will gather again to remember the cost of that hope. And as we move forward, we will turn our hearts toward faith and learning to better trust the God who has proven Himself faithful.