

-S- Children's Moment

October 26, 2014

Title: **-S-** Cheers To Jeers

Object: Sport Logo/shirt/Pendant

Scripture: **-S-** ^{12:12}On the
... ¹³took the



next day the large crowd
branches of the palm

trees and went out to meet Him (*Jesus*), and *began* to shout,
“Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King
of Israel.” ^{19:6}So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they
cried out saying, “Crucify, crucify!” Pilate said to them, “Take Him
yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.” (John 12:12-13 & 19:6)

Do you have a favorite sports team? **-S-** I like the Dallas Cowboys. **-S-** A few years ago when the Cowboys won the Super Bowl, everyone was calling them "America's Team." Everywhere you looked you could see peoples wearing Dallas Cowboy t-shirts and hats. After their victory in the Super Bowl, the city of Dallas held a parade and as the Cowboys rode through the streets of Dallas, the people cheered and waved. Now, just a few years later, the Cowboys are not so popular. Their fans expected them to win the Super Bowl every year and the Cowboys just aren't living up to what the fans expected of them. **-S-** The cheers have turned to jeers, and many of their once-faithful fans have forsaken them to cheer for another team.

Did you know that the very same thing happened to Jesus? **-S-** This is a picture of Jesus and Palm branches. In the country where Jesus lived, the Palm tree was everywhere. The branches of the Palm were a symbol of victory and joy. During the time of Jesus, people used to wave Palm branches as they cheered in

celebration when an important person such as a king rode through the streets of town. **-S-** Jesus rode through the streets of Jerusalem on the back of a small donkey. As He rode along, people waved Palm branches and shouted and cheered. They shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" The people cheered Jesus as their King.

Just a few days later, Jesus was arrested, tried, and led to a hill called Calvary to be crucified. The cheers that He had heard a few days before as He entered Jerusalem now turned to jeers. Many of the people who just a few days before shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" had now turned against him. **-S-** They were now shouting "Crucify Him! Crucify Him! He is not our king. We have no king but Caesar." They were even offered the choice of whether to free a criminal named Barabbas or to free Jesus. They chose to free Barabbas and crucify Jesus. Many of His once-faithful followers had forsaken him.

You and I have to make a choice. We can choose to follow Jesus and make Him the King and Lord of our life, or we can choose to forsake Him like the people who cried, "Crucify Him! He is not our king!" My question to each of us is, "Will we be found faithful to Jesus?"

Jesus, Blessed Jesus, today we choose to make You King and Lord of our life. Help us to be strong, and to follow You, even when all others have forsaken You. Amen.

-S- The Coming of the King

Sermon #67

The Jewish people had been waiting for the Messiah for more than 700 years as predicted by the prophet Isaiah and confirmed by other Old Testament prophets. Isaiah wrote many things concerning the coming Messiah. Even if the people did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah, since they know not most of the scriptures, the chief priests who spent their lives studying the scriptures had no excuse. Isaiah said the coming Messiah would be named Immanuel ^(7:14). **-S-** Micah said that He would be the ruler over all Israel forever ^(5:2). **-S-** Samuel wrote that the Messiah would be from the offspring of King David and that while David would die; the Messiah would be king forever ^(2 Sam. 7:14). **-S-** Isaiah also wrote that the Messiah would be heralded by **-S-** “A voice is calling, ‘Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.’” ^(Isaiah 40:3) Malachi agreed with Isaiah in chapter three of his writings. John the Baptist fulfilled this prophecy. **-S-** Also that the Messiah would be anointed by the Holy Spirit was prophesied by Isaiah (11:12). In Matthew we read of this fulfilled, **-S-** “After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.’” ^(Matthew 3:16-17) **-S-** Isaiah also wrote that the Messiah would preach the gospel to the poor and brokenhearted and we read of this being fulfilled in Luke chapter 4. The Messiah would perform miracles to validate that God sent Him and we see this throughout the New Testament gospel accounts. Then Isaiah spent much of chapter 53, which the Sadducees, Pharisees and scribes

avoided, predicting the suffering and death of the Messiah. Jesus fulfilled completely the many specific things Isaiah wrote of.

-S- Since the time of Isaiah men had come and claimed to be the Messiah, some sought personal prestige, some sought the violent overthrow of the government and some came to exploit the people. From the time Jesus was crucified and resurrected false prophets continue to come forward for the same reasons of personal gain. **-S-** About 44 A.D. Theudas promised to his followers that he would part the Jordan River. The river did not part and with their backs against the river the Roman troops attacked killing hundreds of his followers. The Egyptian, that Paul was mistaken for in Acts chapter 21 verse 38, boasted he would command the walls of Jerusalem to fall down. The walls did not come down and again the Roman troops killed hundreds his followers, although he escaped. **-S-** Early in the second century Simon Bar Cochba, “*son of a star*”, led a major Jewish revolt against the Romans capturing Jerusalem for three years. The Romans crushed the rebellion and retook Jerusalem killing Simon Bar Cochba and six hundred thousand of his followers. In the sixth century a man in Crete claiming to be the messiah promised to part the Mediterranean Sea so his followers could walk to Israel. The sea did not part and a number of his followers drown. **-S-** In the seventeenth century Sabbethai Zebi proclaimed himself “king of kings” over the whole earth and attracted a large following and was recognized as the messiah by a leading rabbi. However, he then converted to Islam and was executed. So it continues to this very day. What we see is that all through history these false messiahs all have had one thing in common; they are counterfeits that served Satan and try to take away the focus on the true Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. **-S-** So for there to be suspicions concerning Jesus was only natural, but no one before or since has fulfilled all of the

scriptures. I believe that many of the Jewish leaders knew Jesus was the Messiah as the scriptures testified to. As we look at the events of the last week of Jesus earthly life and knowing the Jewish leaders were exploiting the people - we see that a Messiah was very inconvenient. Lets now turn our focus to the true Messiah as we study John chapter twelve this morning.

-S- Our study passage has been interrupted to say many things over the years and sermons have been preached that Jesus was making one last attempt to open the eyes of the people in Jerusalem and gain a following. It was only after the Hosannas turned to demands for His crucifixion that Jesus abandons this plan and goes to Calvary. However, the Gospels tell us that Jesus had already offered Himself to Israel as King, it was early in His ministry and He was rejected at that time. **-S-** As Matthew quoted Isaiah chapters 9 and 60 writing, **-S-** **“THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED.’ From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”** (Matthew 4:16-17) Throughout His ministry He continued to be rejected by the majority of the people. Now Jesus enters Jerusalem with an entirely different objective – He came to die for the salvation of those called by God the Father. **-S-** Jesus even warned that after His death and resurrection as His second coming grew near, **-S-** **“Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.”** (Matthew 24:11-13) We will see people who grow cold and those who endure to the end as we begin this last week of Jesus’ earthy life and study all the way through the rest of John’s gospel.

-S- Jesus Came To Die

As we saw last week that as Jesus and His disciples approached Bethany for the banquet dinner He said, **-S-**³³ “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles.”³⁴ “They will mock Him and spit on Him, and scourge Him and kill Him, and three days later He will rise again.” (Mark 10:33-34) We know from the conversation Jesus had with His disciples in the Upper Room that they did not understand. Against this background it is certain Jesus enters Jerusalem to push the Jewish leaders and force them into action and that this would precipitate the events that would lead to His death – Jesus came to Jerusalem to die.

-S- Jesus Came To Fulfill

Jesus came to fulfill every letter of the scriptures. **-S-** Verse twelve reads, “On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem...” “On the next day” was the morning after the banquet in Bethany. **-S-** During the night Judas had met with the chief priests and agreed to betray Jesus to them. **-S-** “Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?’ And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him.” (Matthew 26:14-15) God’s plan will play out just as He has ordained, not as men desire. **-S-** It is fitting that the Lamb of God, Jesus the Christ, would be sacrificed on the same day that the Passover lambs were being sacrificed as Paul wrote, **-S-** “For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed” (1 Corinthians 5:7)

-S- Jesus Came To Fulfill

Jesus came to Jerusalem to fulfill all the scriptures. Our normal thought is that Jesus as God incarnate was not bound by anything and had power over everything for He created all. But Jesus did consider Himself bound by Scripture that was inspired God the Father and was the expression of God's perfect will. As we study the life and ministry of Jesus we see that He took care to validate scripture at every juncture. **-S-** We see how Jesus lived out every detail as we continue in John, ¹²“On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and *began* to shout, ‘Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel.’” **-S-** People by the hundreds came pouring out of Jerusalem to see Jesus. Historians estimate that there would have been around one million people packed into Jerusalem for the Passover. Many wanted to see this man who raised Lazarus from the dead. The excited people became stripping branches from palm trees for they were plentiful and are still to this day. **-S-** The Old Testament associates palm branches with the Feast of Tabernacles not the Passover, but during the intertestamental period palm braches became a symbol of victory and celebration. In 141 B.C. the Jews reentered the citadel at Jerusalem. Reading from the apocryphal book of 1 Maccabees 13:51, **-S-** “...the Jews entered it with praise and palm branches, and with harps and cymbals and stringed instruments, and with hymns and songs...” **-S-** Many of these people were hoping that Jesus would be a king like Maccabee and would retake Jerusalem and expel the Romans. The crowd begins shouting, **-S-** “Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel.” ^(v.13) Quoting Psalm 118:26 the people affirming their hope that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah. Matthew records that

the crowds also called Jesus the Son of David (Mt. 21:9) which is another messianic title. It was just that the crowd's understand of the Messiah was – was wrong. This led to their disappointment and changed their cry from Hosanna to crucify.

-S- Jesus Came As Predicted

The other gospel writers go into detail that when Jesus and the disciples reach the Mount of Olives He sent two disciples into the village to find a donkey and her colt. Unsure of which animal the Lord wanted they bring both back to Jesus. **-S-** The Apostles John writes, ¹⁴“Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, ¹⁵ ‘FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY’S COLT.’” If Jesus had been the conquering King the people hope for it would have been more appropriate if He had entered Jerusalem on a mighty warhorse as John later wrote, **-S-** “And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He *referring to Jesus*) who sat on it *is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war*” (Revelation 19:11) Jesus chose to ride a donkey to enter Jerusalem as the humble Prince of Peace. The symbolism of Jesus humble entry was lost on the crowd wanting a king to throw out the Romans and return Israel to prominence. The next time Jesus comes He will be riding the white horse of the conqueror waging war.

-S- Jesus Came Unrecognized

The people in the crowd shouting “Hosanna” were not the only ones who failed understand what was truly happening as Jesus entered Jerusalem. John writing years later is honest that he and the other disciples did not understand either. **-S-** “These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that

they had done these things to Him.” (John 21:16) The disciples did not grasp that Jesus was not coming as conqueror, but as Savior. Even Judas knew Jesus was not going to be the conquering king he had hoped for. He just saw Jesus as a lost opportunity for his own greatest. One might rightly ask, “If the disciples did not comprehend then how do we know they understood as they penned the New

Testament. **-S-** Jesus answered this question before it was asked, as He often did, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” (John 14:26)

-S- Further Jesus explained that the disciples would not only remember but, **-S-** “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.” (John 16:13) **-S-** Jesus was like no other king. He

did not have to strive for power for He possessed all power. He did not need material wealth for He created and owned the universe and all that it contains. He did not need scribes to remind Him of what He had said in the past for He is perfect truth and knowledge. He had no need of a large army to conquer or defend for He could not be defeated even in dead. Jesus fulfilled the scriptures perfectly and the scriptures reveal who He truly is.

-S- Jesus Came – That We Might Testify

Remember, Jesus, the disciples and His band of followers approached Jerusalem and they were excited by being with Jesus and Lazarus who Jesus had raised from the dead. Lazarus was a strong witness to the power of Jesus and that He had been sent by God. **-S-** Verse seventeen says, “So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify about Him.” Some had gone into Jerusalem ahead of Jesus and some were

with Him. They excitably told people about what Jesus had done. This news traveled like wildfire through Jerusalem and people wanted to see both Lazarus and especially the man who brought him back from the dead. **-S-** Surely if He could bring back people from the dead He could defeat the Romans – the king, the messiah had come at last. In their euphoria they did not notice He was riding a young donkey instead of a warhorse and that His followers were ordinary people not mighty warriors. **-S-** The people came out to Jesus, “For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign.”

John 12:18) The crowd was filled mainly with trill seekers who by the end of the week would be disappointed that He was not the warrior king they wanted. **-S-** Many of these same people in a few days would turn against Jesus and their chants of Hosanna would become shouts of, “crucify Him!” Jesus true believers would continue to testify that He is the true Messiah. This is true of believers today, they testify that Jesus is the Christ and that He is their Lord and Savior. Both then and now believers do this without regard of the risk for they do not belong to this world.

-S- Jesus Came – Was Rejected

The Pharisees observed this throng of hundreds shouting “Hosanna” as Jesus entered into Jerusalem. This must have alarmed and frustrated them. They were desperate to maintain their control for fear the Romans would take it away. The Pharisees had ordered the people to turn Jesus over to them as we read in chapter 11, verse 57. But instead of turning Jesus into the authorities there were thousand welcoming Him. The evening before they had made arrangements with Judas. They could no longer openly take Jesus and Judas gave them hope. **-S-** With their plans falling apart all around them they turned to attacking one another, “You see

that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him.”^(v.19) They are fighting with each other because their plan for murder is falling apart. This is what happens when anyone, including us, takes their focus off of God’s will to serve their own ambitions. **-S-** Later at least one Pharisees, Gamaliel, who had learned from the disaster of Jesus’ crucifixion spoke, **-S-**³⁴“A Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council ...³⁵ he said to them, ‘Men of Israel, take care what you propose to do ...³⁹ if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God.’”^(Acts 5:34,35 and 39) He had seen that Jesus’ crucifixion had not stopped people from following Him. **-S-** Now Jesus disciples were preaching the gospel of Christ and the Pharisees again want to put them to death. Most of the Pharisees had learned nothing and it was still all about them instead of God. Today, it is largely the same. Most people are of the world and their lives then are all about themselves. If you say you are a believer, then it is all about Jesus. You belong to Him and He is your Master. Are you serving your Master faithfully?

-S- Jesus Came So We Can Testify

Jesus came to this earth, that He created, loved Himself for a time to be a man **-S-** “who knew no sin *to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” (2 Corinthians 5:21) Careers and homes are nice, but you are called to live a life that glorifies Jesus and share the gospel of good news and salvation – no excuses – Jesus said to all believers, **-S-** “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”^(Mark 16:15) I cannot wait to hear your stories in the next few week and see how the Holy spirit has worked through you!