

Don't Let The Rocks Cry Out
John 12:12-18 & Luke 19:39-40

This morning is Palm Sunday and we are going to look at the scene when Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey and people lay down Palm tree branches in front of him and hail Him as King and Messiah.

Don't Let The Rocks Cry Out:

This morning's message is all about worship. The people praise Jesus singing, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" Worship is our highest calling in life. God desires us to worship Him first. In fact everything God does in your life is to make you a worshipper.

1. Jesus deserves our worship

The people realize that the prophecy in Zech 9:9 is being fulfilled right before their very eyes in Jesus and understandably they're so excited about who Jesus is that they erupt in praise. Worship is the expression of gratitude, appreciation and excitement. It's when we are moved by God and get excited about all that He is and does. Worship is our hearts being stirred by truth about God – He wants our affections stirred for Him as we remember how he loves us, cares and provides for us, how he showers us with blessings and works miracles in us. We respond by overflowing praise. *Why does Jesus deserve our worship?* Because of who He is: the Son of David; the Deliverer, the King and because of what He has done in coming to rescue mankind. Worship reminds us of the values that the world makes us forget. We must ask God to stir our affection for Him regularly. Let's be specific about why we are worshipping God. Remember all the good things He has done for you.

2. Jesus delights in our worship

Here, Jesus is boldly declaring himself king and receiving the praise due His name and He wants everyone to know about who He is and why He's come. Psalm 21:4 tells us that 'God is enthroned on the praises of his people.' He is exalted as we speak His praise. Philippians 2:11 reminds us that He will return for a second time to earth like this and we can get excited as we anticipate Him coming again. *How should we worship?* The way the people praised Jesus was scriptural. It's important that we praise God as He wants to be praised. With words, with song, with hands raised high we must come. Some postures of worship include standing, kneeling, lying down, eyes lifted up, eyes cast down, and hands raised. These are all appropriate and biblical expressions of worship.

3. Jesus desires our worship

Jesus said, "I tell you, if they (*the people*) were silent, the very rocks would cry out." Jesus truly wants us to worship him. He covets our praise. Think about people at a sports event. They are worshipping athletes. How much more should we get excited about and worship Jesus? Even creation itself praises God: the trees, hills, oceans, rivers, mountains. True worship comes from a heart that truly desires Him. Our total affection set on Him. We're all guilty of idolatry. How do we know if we are worshipping something else more than God? Ask yourself 'what absorbs my will, my time, my resources most of all? What can I not live without? It may be career, material possessions, money, and health, even our families. Lets cry out Psalm 63:5.

God came to Earth through His Son Jesus to save us. He came as rescuer and redeemer. The people sang Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord: they sang a salvation song that God had come to save them. Let us join them now. His love is without condition. Salvation is available to all in Jesus.