

HOSANNA!

MATTHEW 21:8-9
SERMON BY:
STEPHEN HERROD

MESSAGE :

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PASSAGE: MATTHEW 21: 8-9 ESV

8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9** And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this sermon is to convey the significance of understanding the true nature of deliverance and salvation in relation to God's plan and purpose. It emphasizes the danger of allowing personal expectations to overshadow genuine worship and reliance on Jesus. Additionally, it aims to illustrate the root cause of humanity's bondage and the ultimate solution found in Jesus Christ, who offers true freedom from rebellion against God and the control of earthly powers. Ultimately, the sermon seeks to inspire listeners to place their trust in Jesus for genuine deliverance and salvation.

INTRODUCTION

Etymologically speaking, the word “Hosanna” consists of two elements. The first part of Hosanna comes from the

Hebrew verb יָשָׁע (*yasha'*), meaning to be saved or delivered, and the other part of the word is the Hebrew word נָא (*na'*), the common particle of entreaty; So, to put things together, the word Hosanna literally means, save us please! In this sense, it is an appeal for deliverance.

And this appeal for deliverance presented by the people to Jesus on the first Palm Sunday marked a significant event, as it was the official coronation of our King, Jesus the Christ. Interestingly, His coronation differed profoundly from any other in history. In a departure from tradition, King Jesus chose a donkey for his entrance into Jerusalem instead of a horse. Typically, Kings would showcase their splendor, might, and military prowess by riding a horse into cities. Yet, Jesus humbly entered Jerusalem on a lowly donkey. Despite its unconventional nature, this type of royal entrance fulfilled His Father's plan, as foretold by the prophet Zechariah, signaling that our King would present himself to us humbly, riding on a donkey.

SERMON POINTS

1. *DON'T LET YOUR EXPECTATION BECAOME YOUR god BECAUSE IF YOU LET YOUR EXPECTATIONS BECOME YOUR god, THEN YOU WILL*

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*MISS OUT ON THE DELIVERANCE
THAT YOU TRULY NEED.*

As Jesus made his way into the city, the people gave him royal treatment by spreading their cloaks along the road and cutting palm branches from the trees and spreading them along the road. Furthermore, they shouted unto Jesus with an appeal of deliverance and offering of praise singing a remix of Psalm 118:25-26, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest!

The Jewish people said Hosanna to the Son of David because God promised that He would bring them back to their homeland after exile and send them a new king descended from David and this king would rule forever, Isaiah 9:7. By the time of Jesus' day, the exiles had returned to their homeland, but the Messiah-king had not appeared. Instead, the people of God were ruled by, and oppressed by, Rome. Because of this, most Jews expected their Messiah-King to lead a revolt against Rome and set up his earthly kingdom then. So, when we read about them appealing for deliverance singing, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were appealing to Him and praising Him because they thought they needed to be saved from Rome, and that Jesus came to save them from Rome!

You see, the Jews received the revelation that their messiah-king would descend from

David (2 Samuel 7), the Jews received the revelation that their messiah-king would save them (Jeremiah 23), the Jews received the revelation that their messiah King would rule forever (Isaiah 9), but they did not receive the revelation that His kingdom is not of this world, John 18:36.

Hence, these people were praising Jesus with partial revelation. Now friends, we all praise God with the partial revelation that we have, but these people show us the danger of inserting our expectations in between partial revelation and complete revelation!

They knew a king was coming, but they did not know all the details. So they inserted their expectations of a king, and in between partial revelation and complete revelation, their expectations became their god, so they really were crying out Hosanna to the Son of David, not to Jesus, but to their expectations!

And beloved, that explains why some people fall away from the faith. They are not really praising and worshiping Jesus, but they are praising and worshiping their expectations. So, when Jesus does not meet their expectations, when Jesus does not move when they say move, when Jesus does not heal when they say heal, when Jesus does not help when they say help, they fall away because they were never really praising Jesus, but they were praising their expectations the entire time!

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Now I say to you beloved, don't let your "hosanna" get tainted by your partial revelation. Don't let your expectations become your god because if you let your expectations become your god, then you will miss out on the real deliverance that you need.

ILLUSTRATION

There's a story about a man who was stuck on his rooftop in a flood. He was praying to God for help. Soon a man in a rowboat came by and the fellow shouted to the man on the roof, "Jump in, I can save you. "The stranded man shouted back, "No, it's OK, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me." So, the rowboat went on. Then a motorboat came by. "The fellow in the motorboat shouted, "Jump in, I can save you." To this the stranded man said, "No thanks, I'm praying to God, and he is going to save me. I have faith." So, the motorboat went on. Then a helicopter came by, and the pilot shouted down, "Grab this rope and I will lift you to safety." To this the stranded man again replied, "No thanks, I'm praying to God, and he is going to save me. I have faith." So, the helicopter reluctantly flew away. Soon the water rose above the rooftop and the man drowned. He went to Heaven. He finally got his chance to discuss this whole situation with God, at which point he exclaimed, "I had faith in you, but you didn't save me, you let me drown. I don't understand why!" To this God replied, "I

sent you a rowboat and a motorboat and a helicopter, what more did you expect?"

Beloved, don't let your expectations become your god because if you let your expectations become your god, you will miss out on the real deliverance that you need.

2. *THE DELIVERANCE THAT WE SO DESPERATELY NEED, IS THE DELIVERANCE THAT JESUS SO FREELY PROVIDES.*

Let me tell you why deliverance is needed in the first place.

\God gave His people laws, and the people of God willfully broke those laws. So, in response to willful rejection of God and God's law, God gave them what they wanted and handed them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices and be free to experience life under the control of other gods. And this is how their freedom actually became their bondage because to reject God and God's law is freedom from God's way and freedom to do things your way, however "there is a path that seems right to man, but it leads to death," Proverbs 14:12. Friends, it is our natural rebellion against God and God's laws that seemingly frees us to live as we please, but we must realize that if we are not under the control of God and God's word, we will be under the control of another god and their word! Nevertheless, God's salvific act on our

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behalf is that our king has worked on behalf of the people to free us from our bondage and the price tag of death that comes with it! Salvation, then, is God's work to reclaim you from what you gave yourself to, thinking it would be good for you and better for you than God and God's way, but turned out to be bondage!

You see friends, Jesus did not come to save us from earthly power and earthly authority because we have a far worse problem than earthly powers and we would not be subject to them in the first place if we did not rebel against God. We have a far worse problem than earthly powers and earthly authorities! Side note: One of the tactics of the enemy is to get you to focus on, and blame everything, except the real problem. Injustice from earthly powers is a symptom of the problem, but not the root of the problem! The root of the problem is rebellion against God and God's word! And it is our willful rebellion against God that makes us an enemy of God because when we are not under God's rule, we are subject to the rule of the satan, who is the god of this world, 2 Corinthians 4:4!

But I have some good news. Our king made an announcement. He said, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free." Beloved, Jesus came to set us free; free from the devastating implications of being under the control of

the Satan and earthly powers, and the injustice that they enact, free from whatever has you tangled, shackled, or bound., and free to worship God and experience true freedom under His control. As you cry out "Hosanna," know that Jesus has come and worked that you can be free from whatever has you tangled, shackled, or bound, so that you can experience life more abundantly in Him.

QUOTES BY STEPHEN HERROD

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