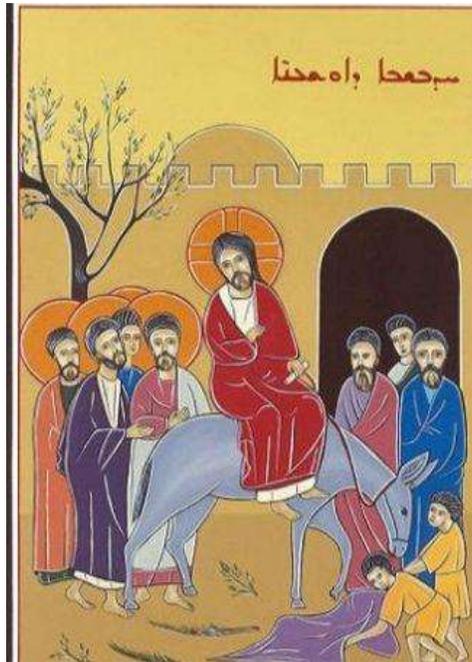


Hosanna, Palm Sunday

(Phil 1:1-13 / Jn 12:12-22)



Jesus the King, hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem in a royal procession.

After many miracles, we saw that Jesus demanded the people he healed not say anything to anybody about what he performed for them, his hour had not yet come. However here we see that his hour has begun, he is entering as a king before the eyes of everybody.

It was the Passover feast day in Jerusalem where all people made their pilgrimage to the temple in the city of the king David. Jesus entered this city riding a donkey which represents peace, not on a horse as in a warhorse. He came for peace. And who does not need this peace? The true peace only comes from the king of peace.

He came to celebrate the Jewish Passover, when the Israelites left Egypt, going their way to the promised land. God saved them, commanding them to sprinkle lamb's blood on their door post, to save them from the plague sent to Egypt. From here we have the word "passes over".

Now all the plagues that we deserve because of our many sins, we who live in this world, represent the new Egypt, we are saved now by Jesus the lamb. We put all our plagues on him, on the one who is our remedy.

Palm Sunday is the time where Jesus openly revealed who he is, the king of kings. This is his time now, as was the time of the Israelites to be liberated from the slavery life in Egypt after many years.

On the cross Jesus said, "it is finished" and he died. Nothing is hidden anymore, everything is revealed, this was his life, this is what he did, it is time for a decision to be made. The decision was to crucify him.

Where were all these people, who welcomed him having palm branches, spreading clothes on his way, on his accusation, between choosing him and Barabbas, no voice from them, not even a whisper.

I know a person who was accused of a problem and on Palm Sunday he wrote a status on his Facebook, I think he is innocent, he wrote:

"They spread their cloaks on the road today, to pull off his cloak later. They are crying out saying (Hosanna) today, thereafter they were screaming (crucify him). They wave their hands, with the palm branches today, and far ahead in these same hands they nailed you. There are thousands around you in this moment, but they left you alone later. And later you will rise and raise them all."

Saint Paul in his letter to the Philippians, explains how as Christians we must be: "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Love is unchangeable, you cannot love someone and hate him completely after that. Or even be moody with him or her. If this is applicable with humans, how much more so would it be with God.

The crowds were waiting for a king such as David, who was going to deliver them from the Roman Empire. Jesus delivered them from a much more powerful empire, the empire of the devil. By dying he went to the depths of the earth, to the abyss, where all the righteous were eagerly waiting for him. He breaks their chains and ours.

Jesus' procession in the streets of Jerusalem revealed everything, the leaders, jealous of him, taking the whole world after him, determined to kill him. Their decision cannot wait anymore. The crowd is revealed to have been following him just fascinated by his miracles, their absence in his crucifixion tells us that.

The disciples were lukewarm as well, our passage from John 12 says: "His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they

remembered...”, the disciples were dispersed, afraid, shocked and they didn’t appear till the Pentecost, getting the power from the Holy Spirit, beginning their journey of martyrdom one after another.

Only few, so few, stand firm in their loyalty to Jesus to the end. Till now nearly 2000 years later, we are still living the same scenario: Living between the “Hosanna” and the “Crucify him”

It is so easy to make a choice, but it is much more difficult to live it. It is so easy to be with a person when everything is fine, where we get benefit, however when they need us, where are we. It is so easy to follow a king, it is not when we follow a crucified villain. Christianity is for the heroes, you can be one of them, because you are given all that you need to be.

Have a blessed Week!

Rev. Father Rami Razzouk