

Conversation Starters

- How has your past week been?
- What has the adjustment for you during this time looked like?

Discuss

Palm Sunday is the traditional beginning of what has been known throughout Christian history as Holy Week, a week designed to focus our attention on the passion, or suffering, of Jesus culminating in His death, burial and the celebration of His resurrection. It all began on the [first Palm Sunday](#), when Jesus first went to Jerusalem, where the climax of His ministry would take place – His death. The people who had witnessed Jesus’s ministry welcomed Jesus with much anticipation.

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ([Luke 9:51 NIV](#))

- If you’re a Christian, do you take time this week to focus on this? If not a Christian, what observations do you have about this?
- If you’re a Christian, what anticipation did you have about Jesus when you first started following Him? If you’re just checking things out, what anticipations do you have now?

The people welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem greeted Him with high praise and honor, anticipating His rescue of their oppression. Much like us today, they wanted rescue from their present circumstances. Jesus had something else in mind. Something bigger. He wanted to rescue us from the crisis of our soul, our sinful nature and separation from God.

Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, “Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ([Mark 11:8-9 NIV](#))”

- Do you have any circumstances right now that you would like rescuing from?
- Have you ever felt let down when something turned out different than you expected? How about with Jesus?
- Considering what Jesus did for us, what praise and honor should we give Him? How does it compare to the praise and honor He received on that first Palm Sunday?

Palm Sunday is a time to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross and how thankful we should be for it. Communion, or the Lord’s Supper, was instituted by Jesus to help us remember this time. The idea was for communion to help us thoroughly engage a thought (like what Jesus did for us), in such a way that you bring what was buried in the past into the present for dynamic encounter.

“[Jesus] took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’” ([Luke 22:19-20 NIV](#))

- What does Jesus’s life mean to you?
- How often do you take time to remember that?
- Other than communion, what ways can you bring that to memory on a regular basis?

Next Steps

This week is a special time in the life of a Christian. It’s all to help us remember what Jesus did for all of us. Take some time this week to reflect on the life of Jesus and what it means. Use the time to express your gratitude for what He did as well.

The culmination of this time of remembering and celebration is Easter Sunday. [Join us](#) next week for that and [invite a friend](#) as well.

Further Reflection

Read [Mark 11:1-10](#); Luke [10:38](#); [13:22](#); [18:31-33](#); [22:19-20](#).

Pray

God, thank you for Jesus. Forgive us when we don’t give the praise and honor that we should for what He has done for us. Thank you for the forgiveness and grace given to us because of His love and sacrifice.