

Palm Sunday - April 5, 2020

John 12:9-26

Dying to Live

I. The Bible is the account of God's rescue of the world from sin and death.

A. The Servant Oracles of Isaiah point to the Coming Servant. Isa.52:13-53:12

II. Jesus presents himself as the fulfillment of God's plan.

A. After 3.5 years of miraculous ministry, Jesus challenges Israel to trust Him, knowing they won't!

III. His Dramatic Entry. Jn.12:12-19. Passover 30 AD. (nothing like this had ever happened)

A. Extremely controversial.

1. The common people were hopeful and excited.
2. The leaders were worried and determined (to kill him).

B. Mysteriously Messianic. (in retrospect)

1. *Jesus certainly did present himself as Messiah (Jn.10:25)*
2. The donkey colt. Zech. 9:9; The Hosannas. Ps 118:25-26; Son of Man. 23; Dan.7:13
3. *Even his disciples didn't grasp the biblical significance until after the resurrection. 16*

C. Completely misunderstood. (even by his disciples)

1. *Jesus alone understood what was really happening (and what would soon happen)*
2. All of them understood Christ to be exclusively about Israel as a nation and race. (Acts1:6).
3. Palm branches were like flag-waving. (Maccabean 165 BC)

D. Thoroughly planned. Acts.2:23-24 (even though it looked chaotic)

1. *The Messianic promise is the redemptive thread that runs through human history. The Return of the King. God's kingdom coming. (Matt.6:9-10)*
2. There is a plan; it is God's plan to redeem the universe. Eph.1:11

E. Question: Does the Lord plan inscrutable things? Rom.11:33; Isa 55:9

1. Rom.11:33 Inscrutable = Enigmatic, mysterious, unreadable, inexplicable, unexplainable, incomprehensible, impenetrable, unfathomable, unknowable.

IV. A Surprising Interlude: Greeks? What? 20-26

A. An awkward interruption. Greeks want to see Messiah? 20-22

1. Philip probably was unsure what to do. Gets Andrew.
2. We don't find out if they ever did talk to Jesus.

B. A mystifying response. The hour has come? 23-26

1. The hour has come = *something planned and waited for.*
2. *There is a plan in place, and it is moving toward the goal. The Gospel is the Plan. Eph.1:11*

C. Pointing to a profound reality: God is saving all sorts of people.

1. When I am lifted up (on the cross) I will draw **all people**. (Isa 52:13)

D. Based on a Cross-shaped mystery: Dying in the gospel leads to glory.

1. The dying grain principle. Our suffering matters too.
2. Loss, sorrow, grief—all bear fruit in glory.

V. What does it mean for us?

A. The only way to be rescued from this world is to let go of it. 25

1. *How can we face death? By getting it out of the way right now.*
 - a) *We die in this age, letting go. Col.3:1-4*

B. The only way to let go of it is to know you will fall into God's arms.

1. *We are not letting go of this life and falling into oblivion.*
2. *We are letting go of this life and falling into His arms.*
3. *Like when a child is on the playground and won't let go of the bar to*

C. Because the only arms that can save us are the resurrected ones. Rev. 1:18

1. That is why he rode the peaceful mount into the jaws of death.

VI. We are rescued. We have been caught by God Himself. We will never die again.