

For our Easter series this year, we are looking at the principles of Honor and Dishonor.

When it comes to Jesus, we find people giving Him both.

There are many that bring Him honor but sadly, many that show Him dishonor.

Judas brought Him dishonor.

The mystery woman brought Him honor

Peter brought Him dishonor

Today,

We will see people who did both.

First they brought Him honor.

Then they brought Him dishonor.



Let's set the scene:

**Mt 21** Jesus sends two disciples into the village (v.1 says Bethphage), to fetch for him a donkey and her colt. He is going to ride into Jerusalem on that day we now call Palm Sunday.

**v.4** *This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:*

**v.5** *"SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, GENTLE, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A BEAST OF BURDEN.'"*

Ha!

Another prophecy fulfilled.

Zechariah nailed it again.

Remember last week?

Zechariah prophesied that Jesus would be struck down and His disciples would flee.

He said; *Strike the Shepherd and the sheep will scatter.*

And they did! From the Garden of Gethsemane.

Now;

Zechariah prophecies Palm Sunday.

*YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, GENTLE, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A COLT, Zec 9:9*

A gentle reminder that everything the Word of God says is true. It will certainly come to pass.

So the disciples went into the village, found the donkey and the colt and brought them back.

Now;

Here come the Honor!

**v.6** *The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them,*

**v.7** *and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their coats on them; and He sat on the coats.*

**v.8** *Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road.*

**v.9** *The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Hosanna in the highest!"*

"Hosanna" Save us! (original meaning)

Had now become a cry of welcome.

Perhaps

To the crowd it meant both .

To some: Save us!

To someone else: Welcome!

What's your cry to Jesus?

Save me Lord from this thing.

Welcome Jesus, nice to see you.

**v.10** *When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?"*

**v.11** *And the crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee."*

The symbolism of Jesus riding into Jerusalem was that of a king coming in peace.

The horse was a beast of war.

This created quite a stir that throngs of people ran to see who and what this was all about.

Ie.

Who is this man riding in like a king?

And they cut branches off the palm trees and spread their coats on the road for the donkey to walk on.

Oh,

What an honor they are paying to Jesus.

Only a donkey would think the honor went to him. (think about it)

Have you ever noticed that good things don't last forever?

- When you first dated she sat next to you in the car as you drove.

After a while, she is over by the window looking out.

- In the beginning you took her to the finest restaurants, now it's Jersey Mike's.
- After those long first phone calls you would say, No you hang up first, I don't want to.

Now it's why are you calling me, just text!

So on this Palm Sunday, all the honor is going to Jesus, but it doesn't last.

Jesus has gone through the trial with the High Priest. He is now delivered over to Pontius Pilate. Pilate is interrogating Him but Jesus doesn't answer.

**Mt 27:15** *Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the people any one prisoner whom they wanted.*

**v.16** *At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas.*

**v.17** *So when the people gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"*

**v.18** *For he knew that because of envy they had handed Him over.*  
So,

They could make a choice between releasing a criminal or Jesus.

**v.19** *While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message, saying, "Have nothing to do with that righteous Man; for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him."*

Pilate's wife comes out of nowhere and warns him about doing anything against Jesus.

But

The pressure was louder.

**v.20** *But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to put Jesus to death.*

**v.21** *But the governor said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas."*

What happened to Hosannah, Jesus Save us?

Who are these people? Are they the same ones from Palm Sunday?

Some say yes and others say no.

I may think perhaps that some, if not most of them were the same people.

They hailed Jesus as the coming king but then, when He was standing before Pilate, He looked defeated and had no intention of fighting for them.

Now,

Barabbas was a fighter. He was a freedom fighter for Israel.  
Mk 15:7 *The man named Barabbas had been imprisoned with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the insurrection.*

So they chose him.  
By doing so, they dishonored Jesus.

**v.22** *Pilate \*said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all \*said, "Crucify Him!"*

**v.23** *And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they kept shouting all the more, saying, "Crucify Him!" Kill Him!*

They could not answer Pilate's question, they could only exude their hatred for Jesus.  
Hatred can be so strong toward someone, that is all you see; you see nothing else.

We must be careful not to be fickle people who change with every emotion. Know your convictions about Christ, stick with them, and don't let anyone pressure you into changing them.

**V.27** *Pilate did something that was inexcusable, When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves."*

When faced with right and wrong, you cannot avoid the situation. You must make a stand for what is right. Remember that when faced with a similar situation.