



The True Triumph
Series: The Gospel of John (#3, Palm Sunday)
John 12:9-19
Pastor Iyle L. Wahl
April 2, 2023

Theme: **Palm Sunday was a triumph of Jesus' faithfulness.**

The sound bite version — “A Great Triumph!”

1. Unbelievably large crowds. (9, 12-13, 18)
2. Riveting testimonies. (17)
3. Astonishing praise. (13, 11)
4. Frustrated opponents. (19)

The docudrama version — “A Great Tragedy!”

1. Fickle crowds. (18; see also 19:12, 15; Matthew 27:22-25, 39-40)
2. Vanishing disciples. (see 18:15-27)
3. Determined opponents. (10; see also 11:45-57; 18:1 - 19:16)
4. Crucified hero. (see 19:17-18)

The ultimate version — “A Triumph Of Faithfulness!”

1. Immediate perspective. (see 11:16, 54; Luke 9:51, 19:41-44)
2. Longer term perspective. (3:14-15, 12:32; Zechariah 9:9-10)
3. Complete faithfulness. (12; see also Psalm 22, 41:9, 118:22-23; Isaiah 52:14 - 53:12)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. As you prepare for Good Friday and Easter, walk through the three *versions*, or views, of the Palm Sunday triumphal entry we surveyed yesterday. Begin today by reviewing and trying to place yourself in the soundbite version of *a great triumph* (see the outline). Join in thinking and feeling what the disciples, crowds and Jesus’ opponents may been experiencing.

Tuesday. Today we shift to the *docudrama version* – looking a bit deeper at the triumphal entry event. Reflect on the changes of each group and the events listed in the outline. Again, try to place yourself in the position of these people.

Wednesday. Today we move to the *ultimate version* – looking at the event from its true and eternal perspective. Check out some of the prophecies Jesus’ fulfilled in that day. Now zero in on Jesus’ faithfulness to His mission. Read the account of Jesus’ prayer in the garden (Matthew 26:36-46) and survey the record of His arrest, beatings and crucifixion (John 18 & 19). Also remember the most difficult aspect for Jesus was taking our sin upon Himself (2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13-14). Thank God for Jesus’ *triumph of faithfulness*.

Thursday. Prepare for Good Friday and our time together tomorrow morning. Review the crucifixion accounts. Jesus was faithful to His mission for you. Examine your own faithfulness to Him.

Friday – Saturday. Good Friday Service at 10:30 a.m. Reflect again on Jesus’ death for us. Then, begin to prepare to celebrate His resurrection on Sunday morning. Read through John chapters 20 and 21.