**“Hosanna!”**

Going deeper in John 12:12-19

**INTRODUCTION -** The exceedingly courageous Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem during Passover sets the stage for the coming events of Passion Week. Jesus rides into the city upon a donkey, a symbol of peace, while the huge crowds that have gathered meet him with palm branches and cheers from scripture that symbolize conquest. The hopes and expectations of people who have packed the city to celebrate the liberation of the Jews from slavery in Egypt creates a politically charged atmosphere that the Pharisees and Roman officials cannot ignore.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

**12**The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. **13**They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

**14**Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

**15**“Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion;
    see, your king is coming,
    seated on a donkey’s colt.”

**16**At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.**17**Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. **18**Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. **19**So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him.”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Jesus comes on a donkey and not on a grand horse. What does that portray?

2. What were the people expecting Jesus, “The King of Israel” to do in Jerusalem during the Passover?

3. How do their expectations compare to what Jesus Messiah will actually do?

4. Jesus was already an outlaw. He was fully aware of the danger he was deliberately placing himself in. Why would he willing ride into the city in such a controversial manner?

5. Have you ever misunderstood Jesus’ purposes, praising Him one day and despairing the next?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Give thanks to God for the hope and joy of the Easter season!

\*Pray for discernment concerning any misunderstandings about Jesus you may have: About who He is, why He came to earth as He did, His purpose concerning the world, His purpose concerning you.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Passion Week. During this deeply significant week, spend time reflecting on the state of your relationship with Jesus. Reflect upon the courage of our Lord on Palm Sunday, His compassion and example of servanthood at the Last Supper, His anguished prayer to His loving Father in the garden, and the excruciating ordeal of His final hours. How will you respond to Jesus Messiah, the King of Kings?