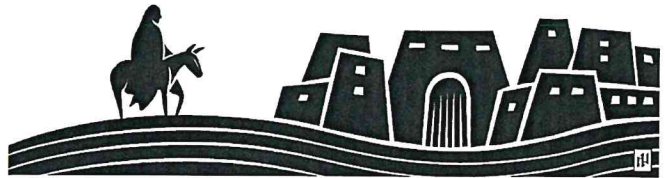


On Palm Sunday, See How Jesus...

1. Has the Plan 2. Deserves the Praise

Failed Plans

- Yr ago: Covid, plans changed – trip to Houston; fam vaca to Yellowstone; HW worship.
- Sure you know what like have plans change. Bet in last yr, you've had many plans change. In sinful world, good things look forward to don't always hap; instead, tragedies pop up we'd never expect. Even psg in James: **“Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow... Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that’” (4:13-15)**, bec plans change; we're not in control. And if there's anything this last CV yr has taught us: we're not in control.
- But today, PS, we see J is in control; of evthng, even spcfc details of what unfolds on PS. Has situa-tion comply under control, bec (as see today) J has plan. And bec J has plan, also deserves praise.

*Jesus Has the Plan*

- 1st, want you notice how J, on 1st PS, has plan. Way whole event of PS begins is with J giving very detailed instrctns to discs to carry out his plan. J: **vs. 2-3** (spcfc place, spcfc animal, detailed instrtns on what do w/it & what say ppl watch you take it). All part plan. Then, when discs go do it, evthng goes exctly way J said would. **Vs. 4-6**. That may seem like small detail in story; but shows: J has plan. Has this whole day, this entire grand entrance into Jrslm all planned out.
- Same true for MT. That day J sent 2 discs into city, said: you'll find man, carrying jar water, follow him, to a house; talk to owner/house, say "Teacher asks re guest room;" he'll show you upper room, all furnished/ready. Again, J's got all planned out, down to little details. And again, discs find things just as J said. J has plan.
- In fact, take step back, look evthng that haps during HW (PS thru Easter) – J has evthng planned out: way rides into Jrslm like king; how teaches publicly, angers Jwsh leaders, they want put him death; how preps for Last Supper; garden to pray, Judas, arrested; even form of death (pierced for trnsgrsns on cross, fulfill evthng Scrptr'd written re him); for that matter, even timing whole thing (sevrل times J said: suffer die, rise on 3rd day) (dies at time Passover, sacred festival of God's delivrnc; rests Sab; raised on 1st day of wk, began creation/wrld) – so even with timing: has evthng planned out!
- If not looking at HW closely, could seem like J: just helpless victim unfortnt circmstncs beyond his control – Judas betrays; discs abandon him; Phars lie re him; Pilate denies him justice. To untrained eye, could seem like this is perf storm of unfrnt events, that all happened to J. But no, when you look at HW w/eyes/faith, you see that J has plan! Has whole thing metclsly planned out, to last detail.
- We call this: God's plan/slvtn. Means God purpsfly planned out evthng necsry save us. Nothing: accdntl or hapnstnc; surprs or caught God off guard. From all eternity, God had this wk, these events, all planned out – 1) for purpose of saving us; 2) for reason: loves us. He planned all this bec loves us. J faced terrible agony/cross, knowing exactly what he getting into, bec loves us!
- And what this means for us: if J has the plan to save us, then also has the plan for our lives. The one who loves us is also in control! The things that hap us in life aren't just chance, random accdnts. No, God has the plan; his plans for us: good! I know we don't always see that; tragedies never seem good. To untrained eye, may seem like life just series of lucky/un events. But if God loves us, made good plans save us, then also has good plans to guide our lives. I think of Rom 8, **“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all [plan/slvtn] – how will he not also, along w/him, graciously give us all things [his plan to guide our lives]?” (31-32)**. Also Jer 29, **“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (11)**. J has plan! When good things come into our lives, we thank God for those blessings. And when bad..., J has taught us: it's not God trying punish/hurt us: and it's not that

God's lost control/things. J has taught us: God uses even painful things for good purposes, and that his plans for us are always loving & good. Another psg, also Rom 8, "**We know that in all...love him**" (28). We need learn truly trust Lord, in good times & bad. Just look at J during HW and on PS; he's in control. J has the plan: for our slvtn, and lives.

Jesus Deserves the Praise

- And bec J has plan, means deserves praise. Certnly praised that 1st PS. Just walk thru vss w/me: vs. 7-10 – cloaks on colt; cloaks on road; branches (Jn: palms), as royalty entering city; "**many ppl;**" parade in front/back J (ppl from Bethany, Laz's res; and Jrslm, heard J coming); words/praise!
- What ppl doing here: quoting Ps 118, which in Heb: "**Hosanna.**" Litly means: Lord, save us; prayer for delvrnc. Became so common, evently used more as shout/praise, like: hail to you, Lord, our Sav; you're one who saves us; hosanna! Ps 118 also: "**Blessed is he...**" – refrnce to Mes; so ppl were praising J as Mes. They also remembrng prophcy of Zech 9, 1st Les: "**See, your king comes to you, righteous & victorious, lowly & riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**" This king: king/Israel, Mes – so again, ppl on PS are praising J as Mes, their king. PS was surely day/praise!
- And don't miss this little detail: even fact J riding animal shows he's worthy of praise! Where else in NT do you see J riding animal? Walks evwhr goes; never rides animal. Except here. Why? Special occasion: entering city of death/res, where he accomplishes God's plan, and thus deserves our praise.
- But inevtbl questn, of course: does J receive from us praise deserves? Not just words/praise, but lives/praise. Our lives meant be lives/praise. So take look at your own life. Does your behavior, do words, even thoughts, praise J? Or dishonor him? Would you want J to hear you talk way talk; or know the thoughts you think; or see what you do when no one's looking? When we sin, we're not praising J; dishonoring him! When we treat GW, coming church as unimptnt, we dishonor J. When we accept false doctrine/tchns, bec more cultrly sensiv or poltclly correct, we dishonor J. When we take one part God's will for lives (i.e., our sexuality), say: that doesn't apply me; I'm going do what I want do – that dishonors J. We all need repent, ask J forgive us, for dishonoring his name, failing praise him as deserves. And we thank God that he does forgives us, freely. And cross & Easter tomb: proof/that.
- Shortly after events of PS, the praising came to screeching halt. Next day (Mon), J went into temple, over-turned tables/moneychangers, accused them turning God's house into den/robbers. Day after that (Tues), J spoke some very harsh parbls re future destrctn/Jrslm, preached lengthy sermon condemning Phars. Then, of course, on Friday, GF, those angry Phars convinced ppl shout: crucify him! So PS basically marks end of the HW praises.

The Pinnacle of Our Praises

- At least for that first HW. But now, for us, as 21st cent Xians, HW is pinnacle of our praises. We always want to praise J. But during HW, that praise is amplified, magnified, bec this wk we witness J accomplish the plan – the carefully crafted plan of our salvation. This wk is yet another ann (don't know exact yr J died/rose; but this: not-quite 2000th ann) of J redeeming the world. And that deserves our praise. So today, PS, we see how J has the plan, and how J deserves the praise. God bless you this HW, as you praise J for accomplishing the plan.

Mark 11:1-10

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ²saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" ⁴They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go.

⁷When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" ¹⁰"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"