From Cheers To Jeers Palm Sunday KZ Lesson 3/24/24

# Memory Verse: Matthew 21:9 NKJV

# 9Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!”

Target Thought: We will believe Jesus all of the time.

Do you have a favorite sports team? For example some people like the Dallas Cowboys. A few years ago when the Cowboys won the Super Bowl, everyone was calling them "America's Team." Everywhere you looked you could see boys, and even some girls, wearing Dallas Cowboy t-shirts. After their victory in the Super Bowl, the city of Dallas held a parade and as the Cowboys rode through the streets of Dallas, the people cheered and waved. Now, just a few years later, the Cowboys are not so popular. Their fans expected them to win the Super Bowl every year and the Cowboys just aren't living up to what the fans expected of them. The cheers have turned to jeers, and many of their once-faithful fans have forsaken them to cheer for another team.

Did you know that the very same thing happened to Jesus? Do you know what these are? (Hold up the palm branches.) These are branches from a Palm tree. In the country where Jesus lived, the Palm tree was everywhere. The branches of the Palm were a symbol of victory and joy. So basically when people were celebrating a person or an event they would wave palm branches to praise the person or celebrate the event.

During the time of Jesus, people used to wave Palm branches as they cheered in celebration when an important person such as a king rode through the streets of town. On the Sunday before he was crucified, Jesus rode through the streets of Jerusalem on the back of a small donkey. As He rode along, people waved Palm branches and shouted and cheered. They shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" The people cheered Jesus as their King.

Just before this Palm Sunday Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead and before that Jesus had done so many miracles and had helped so many people in many ways. These people believed Jesus was their coming king.

At this point in history the believers were being persecuted by the Roman government and they knew that it had been promised in the scriptures that their King that would redeem them and save them and would set up His kingdom was to come. The believers of that day just wanted relief from the Romans and wanted the eternal kingdom to be set up right then. However God had a bigger plan that was not going to be finalized yet.

Some of these people were willing to praise and celebrate Jesus because He was helping them and they thought that all of their problems would soon be over. We should be willing to praise and celebrate when times are good and when times are bad because the truth is Jesus takes care of us and loves us when are times are good and even when they are not. We can’t just love and serve Jesus when things are going our way and then not love or trust Him when times are tough.

Just a few days later, Jesus was arrested, tried, and led to a hill called Calvary to be crucified. The cheers that he had heard on Sunday now turned to jeers. Many of the people who just a few days before shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" had now turned against him. They were now shouting "Crucify Him! Crucify Him! He is not our king. We have no king but Caesar." They were even offered the choice of whether to free a criminal named Barabbas or to free Jesus. They chose to free Barabbas and crucify Jesus. Many of His once-faithful followers had forsaken him.

You and I have to make a choice. We can choose to follow Jesus and make him the King and Lord of our life, or we can choose to forsake him when things don’t go our way or if times are hard like the people who cried, "Crucify Him! He is not our king!" We will be found faithful, because we love and trust Jesus all of the time!

Jesus, today we choose to make you King and Lord of our life. Help us to be strong, and to follow you, even when all others have forsaken you. Amen.

1 What were the palm branches a symbol of?

2 Did the people in Jesus’ day on the Earth believe that He was their king?

3 did the scriptures promises that Jesus would come and save us?

4 Should we be willing to praise and trust Jesus all of the time?

5 Do you and I have to make a choice to follow Jesus?