

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Palm/Passion Sunday – March 29, 2026

“⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

- *Philippians 2:8-11* -

Hosannah! Hosannah! The crowd cried out as Jesus entered Jerusalem, riding on a donkey. The word *hosannah* combines the Hebrew word for “to save” with the Hebrew word for “please” or “now,” creating a powerful and urgent request. The Jews gathering for the Passover in Jerusalem cry out to Jesus, “Please save us! Save us now!” They shouted *hosannah* as a political acclamation, seeking deliverance from Roman rule. They didn’t understand what kind of Savior Jesus is.

Jesus was nothing like the savior they were expecting. They expected Jesus to have some sort of large army. They expected Jesus to demand the attention, respect, and honor of his loyal subjects. And every knee would bow at the name of Jesus, but not in this way. No. Jesus arrived in this world through humble means, and he would continue his ministry and death through the same humble means. This king would take on the form of a servant, not the image the Jews were anticipating of a fighting rebel against the Romans.

Jesus came as a human being, experiencing thirst and hunger, exhaustion and pain. He came to serve others, not himself. He bent down and washed his disciples’ feet. And he remained obedient, obedient unto his death. Death is rarely glamorous, but death for many is at the very least respectful. That was not the case for the King of Kings. Jesus would be humiliated as he was flogged, whipped, and stripped naked for all to see. He would be dishonored, despised, and rejected as he was nailed to and lifted up on a cross, executed as a criminal for everyone to witness, including his own mother, who once cradled him in her arms that first night in Bethlehem.

Why did Jesus go through all of this? He could have fled the scene at any time. No one would have blamed him for going off to the wilderness to pray, only to never return to the hatred that would be there to welcome him back to Jerusalem. Jesus went through the unthinkable because he knew it was the only way to defeat the devil, overcome death, and win the final victory for you. He did all of this because he loves you. We cry out *hosannah*—save us, Lord, from sin, death, and the power of the devil. And he does. He has the final victory!