

## Hosanna

“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” The word “Hosanna” was a Greek adaptation for a Hebrew word, “*hoshiya na*,” which means, “*Save, please*.” We see this phrase in Psalm 118:25. In the psalm, the cry for help is immediately followed by a praise to the Lord, and that eventually becomes part of the word “Hosanna” as well. By the time we get to the New Testament, and the people are laying palms at Jesus’ feet, their cry of “Hosanna!” means “Salvation!” The people have been waiting for a savior, and they wave palms to signify victory over their enemies, likely surprised to see a humble carpenter on a donkey and not a commander prepared to conquer the Romans. For these people, from the Jews, to the Greeks, to all the world, Jesus did not come to be the Savior they expected or deserved, but the one that they needed: the same Cornerstone that was going to be rejected that they sang about in Psalm 118 that shouts “Hosanna!”

David Mathis [writes](#), “The long-awaited Messiah comes not in human glory, but peculiar glory — the glory of strength in weakness, the glory of indomitable joy in excruciating pain, the glory of the Lion of Judah who gives himself as the Lamb of God. He comes on a donkey’s colt to be the stone the builders will utterly reject on Friday, and that God himself will unveil as the very cornerstone on Sunday morning.”

## Prepare Your Heart

Before you begin the study in John, I invite you to read and pray through Psalm 118, or sing “Hosanna” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnMevXQutyE>). Praise Jesus as Hosanna, Cornerstone, and Savior.

**John 12:12-19** <sup>12</sup>The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” <sup>14</sup>And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

<sup>15</sup>“Fear not, daughter of Zion;  
behold, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

<sup>16</sup>His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup>The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. <sup>18</sup>The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup>So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

- 1) The people of Israel have been waiting for the Messiah (Savior) to come for years, and they have been under the rule of the Roman empire. When the people bring palm branches, this is conveying the notion of victory over one’s enemy. Which enemies do you think the Israelites believed Jesus came to defeat?

- 2) What things do you feel like you've been waiting for?
  
- 3) Think of your favorite heroes who come in and save everyone at the end of a movie or book. How is Jesus similar to them? How is He different?
  
- 4) What areas of your life need more humility (or where do you need to be more humble)?

**John 12:20-26** <sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

- 5) "Greeks" sometimes referred to people from Greece/Greek descent, but could also mean "Gentiles" (non-Jewish people). Why do you think these "outsiders" have come to see the One some of the Jews have been following?
  
- 6) Does Jesus reject them since they are Gentiles? Do you have to be of His "line" for Him to be your King? What does Jesus say you have to do to follow Him? (see verses 25-26)
  
- 7) What does Jesus mean in verse 25? What does it mean to "hate your life in this world?"
  
- 8) What in this world most distracts you or keeps you from following and serving Jesus?

**John 12:27-36** <sup>27</sup>“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. <sup>34</sup>So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” <sup>35</sup>So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup>While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

9) Here, we see a contrast: Jesus will be “raised up” to heaven, but will also defeat the ruler of this world, Satan. Then, there is some confusion about the “Son of Man.” Watch this short video from The Bible Project to learn more:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/son-of-man/>

- What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of Man?
- The people may have thought that “Hosanna” was coming to free them from authorities or political rule. But how does this passage reveal who Jesus came to defeat?

10) During our study in John, we have already discussed “spiritual blindness.” Some people say they hear thunder in this passage, but they are blind to recognize something. What are they missing?

11) Jesus addresses spiritual blindness again in verses 35-36. Jesus is calling them out of darkness, into light. What is the light?

**John 12:36-43** *When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. <sup>37</sup>Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, <sup>38</sup>so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:*

*“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”*

<sup>39</sup>Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

<sup>40</sup>“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.”

<sup>41</sup>Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. <sup>42</sup>Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup>for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

- 12) Some are spiritually blind, and some do not follow out of fear of things in this world. Some “love the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.” What areas of your life are you holding on to something that comes from this world and not from God? Acceptance? Success? Pleasures? Relationships?

**John 12:44-50** <sup>44</sup>And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. <sup>45</sup>And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. <sup>46</sup>I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. <sup>47</sup>If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. <sup>48</sup>The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. <sup>49</sup>For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. <sup>50</sup>And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

- 13) We see Jesus address the Jews, the Greeks, but in this passage it is confirmed who Jesus came for: “<sup>46</sup>I have come into \_\_\_\_\_ as light, so that \_\_\_\_\_ believes in me may not remain in darkness. <sup>47</sup>If \_\_\_\_\_ hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge \_\_\_\_\_ but to save \_\_\_\_\_.”

- 14) Light/Darkness or Sight/Blindness have been common motifs throughout John. What does it mean to not remain in darkness, but come into the light? What does it mean to really “see?” Is it just believing?

Christ is the Light of the World (John 9:5). ALL the WORLD - not only for Jews or Greeks. He came so that all might see not just this earth, but see the real light that He has to offer. He came on a donkey on Palm Sunday, but will make another final ride on a greater steed, and bring with Him the full glory of His Kingdom.

**Reflect:**

15) Are you waiting for a Savior in your life? Do you feel trapped in anything? Where do you need to look to God for hope?

16) What is God calling you to let go of in your life in order to follow Him? What is in the darkness and needs to come into the light?

17) Finish the phrase: Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.  
Explain.

As you end your time, I encourage you to go back to Psalm 118, or use these songs to worship:

In Christ Alone <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16KYvfc2bE>

Psalm 118 (Your Steadfast Love) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bg8NB4w92qo>