

Palm Sunday
March 28, 2010

Last Sunday as we were leaving Church, Bob asked, “When are you leaving for Alaska?” “Tuesday, March 30th,” was the reply. He's quick -- “How would you like to preach on Palm Sunday?” Good with me. Then he says, “You might want to compress it.” - short for 'keep it short.'

Now my wife will be glad to tell you that I do not talk a lot.

My son, when he was about five – trying to figure out what I did as a priest, asked, “You mean you get paid for talking?”

My grandson Tyler, when he was about three – we were shovelling snow in the driveway. We worked for about 125 minutes when he says, “Pap, you know we could talk while we are doing this.”

Memories – what we come to treasure.

You can bet the people who were present at the first Palm Sunday had memories. Then, down through the centuries, you can hear the cry 'Hosanna' as it rings for all the ages.

I have been thinking lately about the internet and what an amazing thing it is. E-mails -- friends send you all kinds of things. Some funny, some spiritual, some inspirational – and some about Jesus. In a way, it's like the early Christians sharing the news about Jesus. We pass the good news via e-mail.

There there is Google. Since I retired I learned you can Google just about anything – including sermons. I found a good illustration that was very interesting. Tells about a group of friends who were sharing. Question was raised “What is the greatest thing about Jesus?”

So happened that D. S. Lewis was present.

So they asked him what is the greatest thing about Jesus.

C. S. Lewis responded “The greatest thing about Jesus is” Then the page goes blank. Then there is a little note that says, “If you want to know the rest of the story you can join Sermons for \$\$\$ per month. What a set up.

Well, I will share what I think.

Palm Sunday through Easter is life rolled into one week.

It's life – death – resurrection.

Works like this. The first of the seven days Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey to the shouts of “Hosanna” -- literally meaning -- “save us.”

Monday he walked into the Jerusalem Temple, overturning tables where money exchange occurred.

Tuesday taught in parables.

Wednesday – we know nothing about Wednesday.

Thursday in an upper room, Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples. But he gave it a new meaning. No longer would his followers remember the Exodus from Egypt in the breaking of bread/ They would remember his broken body and shed blood.

Friday, the fifth day -- following betrayal – arrest, imprisonment, desertion, false trial, denial, condemnation, beating and sentencing. Jesus carried his own cross to 'The Place of the skull' where he was crucified with two other prisoners. We all have experienced death in its many forms.

Saturday Jesus lay dead in a tomb bought by a man named Joseph. More needs to be said about Holy Saturday. We all experience death – then there is the day after death. What do you do then? Story about being in the desert and a sand storm comes up. When a dust storm come up – what do you do? Can't see and you do not know where to go. There are 360 degrees of choice and 359 degrees of wrong choices, i.e., going in the wrong direction. This is why it is good to wait before making decisions after you have experienced a death.

Then comes Easter – more unbelievable than you can dream or imagine until the resurrections takes place in your own life.

I invite you to live this Holy Week. Start today – listening – be quiet – hear the crowds down through the ages shouting Hosanna (save us).

During this week ask yourself, 'What is the greatest thing about Jesus?'

Hosanna.