

A Message from Mary-Beth

One of my favourite stories in the Bible is the account of Palm Sunday. I would've loved to have been there, to be part of the exuberant crowd which welcomed Jesus and paid homage to Him as their King.

Not long before, he had literally raised Lazarus from the dead and news of this miracle had spread far and wide.

There was a rumour that Lazarus would be coming to Jerusalem alongside Jesus and the place was buzzing with excitement to see both of them together. In the end, Lazarus didn't come with Jesus but the crowd were still exuberant. I can just imagine how amazing it must have been. They hailed Jesus as their new King, sent by God himself.

Jesus was indeed a King, but not an Earthly one. His Kingdom came from above, from God himself. And His kingdom was about salvation, redemption and eternal life.

But the crowd on that first Palm Sunday didn't realise the true nature of Jesus' Kingdom. They were expecting a King who would deliver them from earthly oppression, from the Roman yoke. They didn't realise that what Jesus was bringing to them was far more important. And so their allegiance to Jesus was short-lived. The jubilation of Palm Sunday was followed by the suffering and tragedy of Good Friday, when Jesus was crucified. The crowds which venerated Him on Palm Sunday were decidedly absent in the days which followed. Some even mocked him.

Today, we have the benefit of hindsight when we commemorate Palm Sunday. We know that the Kingdom he has brought far exceeds anything the world has to offer.

I like to think of Palm Sunday as a transition point in the Easter story, a day which points to the joy of Easter, which gives us a glimpse of what is to come.

But we have to follow Jesus in the events of the following days of Holy Week in order to truly experience and appreciate the salvation and joy of Easter. We have to understand the sacrifice He made for us on the cross to win our freedom from sin. And that understanding calls us to true repentance of our sins, of turning away from sin and earnestly seeking Jesus and his Kingdom of salvation.

Here is a prayer for Holy Week:

*Lord God, lead us from the joy of this day to the joy of Easter, and make us mindful of all the steps in between. Enable us to walk in the steps of your redeeming Son Jesus and open our hearts to true repentance and your saving love. **Amen.***

God bless you richly in this holiest of weeks,
Mary-Beth

