

FROM CORONATION TO CRUCIFIXION

TEXT: Jn.12:12,13 & Jn.19:1-3

THESIS: To show the dramatic contrasts between "Palm Sunday" to "Good Friday."

INTRO.: A. Kings & Presidents rise & fall, but they usually have a reasonable amount of time in office & experience popularity for a while. But in less than a week Jesus went from being proclaimed King of Israel on "Palm Sunday" to being crucified as the mock "King of the Jews" on "Good Friday." The cries of the people on Palm Sunday were "Hosanna...blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord;" the cries on Good Friday were: "Crucify Him...we will not have this man to reign over us..."

B. Even among Jesus' disciples the contrasts were evident. Peter wielded his sword in Jesus' defense one day & the next day cursed & denied Him. The Apostles worked miracles in His Name & with His power & yet when He was arrested, they all fled & went into hiding. Unfortunately, not much has changed over the centuries. His disciples imitate His early followers.

TRANS.: Let's look at the contrasts of "Holy Week" & see how our church & we compare today...

I. THEN: PALMS ON SUNDAY & FISTS ON FRIDAY! Jn.12:12,13; Jn.19:1-3

ILLUS.: The Roman soldiers, like many other soldiers over the centuries, were hardened to suffering. They had heard the pleas of innocence of guilty prisoners (no one in prison deserves to be there!), they were unhappy that they had been sent to this foreign land to govern a rebellious & strange people. Finally they have one they can play with. They had heard about His "coronation" on Palm Sunday, so they decide to have some fun. They get an old chair for His throne, an old soldiers cloak for a robe, a broken reed for a sceptre & a wreath of thorns for a crown. Then they begin to hit him & since He had claimed to also be a prophet, they ask Him to identify His tormentors. Bear in mind that His back is bleeding, His face is dripping with the spittle of the priests. We self righteously exclaim: "How terrible to mock our Savior so!" But for many a believer it is...

A. Now: The Word on Sunday, The World On Monday!

1. We piously ask, "How could anyone be so cruel?"
2. Yet we come to church on Sunday & sing "Crown Him With Many Crowns, the Lord upon His throne..."& on Monday refuse to witness for Him at work.

Lk.22:54 *Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.*

Lk.22:63-65 *And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and smote him. 64 And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophecy, who is it that smote thee? 65 And many other things blasphemously spake they against him.*

ILLUS.: When a child sasses or shows disrespect to his or her parents it hurts. It is like a slap in the fact. When a believer shows disrespect to his or her Savior it is like hitting Him with your fists! When we sing His praises on Sunday & refuse to witness on Monday, we grieve His Holy Spirit Who lives within us.

II. THEN: WORSHIP ON SUNDAY & THE WHIP ON FRIDAY: Jn.19:1

Mt.21:8-9 *And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strowed them in the way.*

9 *And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.*

A. Now: The Bible On Sunday, Blasphemy On Monday!

Mt.26:55-56 *In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. 56 But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.*

1. Surely not Peter who pulled His sword to defend Him when He was arrested.
2. Surely not James who had been with Him on the Mt. of Transfiguration.
3. Surely not John who had placed his head on His breast at the Lord's Table.
4. Surely not YOU or ME when the world uses His Name in vain or when they tell their dirty jokes, or mock Him!
5. Surely not YOU or ME who on the Lord's Day are so faithful to services & who are King James Bible believers!

ILLUS.: If you hide the fact that you are a believer at work, go along w/the ungodly crowd. I'm not saying that we ought to look down our noses at the lost & be piously self-righteous & hypocritical. When Daniel prayed w/his windows open, he didn't do it to show off, he always prayed that way. We should be at school or at work what we are at church. We should be at home what we are at church.

III. THEN: A CROWN ON SUNDAY & A CROSS ON FRIDAY:

Mk.11:7-10 *And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and he sat upon him. 8 And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way. 9 And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: 10 Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.*

Jn.19:17-19 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: 18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. 19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

A. Now: The Lord on Sunday, The Devil On Monday:

ILLUS.: We come to church on Sunday & sing "I Love To Tell The Story" and never tell it for seven days! We sing "Send the Light" yet never let our light shine. We sing "I Surrender All" yet never surrender a tithe of our income. (God has been good to you this week; you have eaten food He has provided, breathed air He supplies, enjoyed His sunshine, drunk His water. You've taken & taken & taken; yet, this morning when the offering plate was passed, you didn't even give God one dime out of a dollar. Are we who live on this side of the Cross not more guilty than those who mocked Him back then?)

It's time we give Him our best, our all! It's time you decided to come back to church on Sunday night! It's time you decided you were going to learn some Bible & come to church on Wednesday night! (By the way don't think you will serve Him later if you are not serving Him now. Don't think you will be faithful later if you are not faithful now. Don't expect others to be faithful to your ministry if you are not faithful to your local church now! The chickens always come home to roost!)

1. If you live for the Lord on Sunday, why not live for Him on Monday?!
2. If you love the Lord on Sunday, you must love the Lord on Monday!
3. It can't be a crown on Sunday and a cross on Monday!

ILLUS.: A missionary saw a little lady with two babies in her arms going to the Nile River, which the Egyptians worshipped as a god. One was a scrawny little thing & very sick, the other was the picture of health. She bowed in some kind of ritual as the crocodiles waited below. Then she took the sickly baby & laid it aside & before the missionary could say a word to stop her, she threw the healthy baby into the river & to the waiting jaws of a crocodile. He said, "Lady if you were going to throw a baby to the crocodiles, why not the skinny, sickly one?" The little lady looked at the American missionary and said: "I don't know about your God, but my god deserves my best." It's about time we quit mocking our King & make Him our King all week - every week!

IV. THEN: KING ON SUNDAY & THE CROWN OF THORNS ON FRIDAY:

Lk.19:36-38 *And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. 37 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; 38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.*

Mk.15:16-19 *And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band. 17 And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, 18 And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! 19 And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him.*

A. Now: Praise on Sunday, Cursing On Monday!

1. Jesus listens in on our conversation & a “cursing Christian” is a contradiction in terms: (like a Christian prostitute, or a Homosexual believer or Christian rock or rap music!)
2. Jesus is aware of “every idle word” we speak & all of our actions & activities throughout the week, not just what we do, say or sing on Sunday!

ILLUS.: A little boy was reading a book one day & his mother called him to take out the trash. He said: Mom, I can't come right now, I'm in the middle of this book & the hero is getting beat up & the villain is winning. He's killing him & I can't come right now." Mom said, "Now, Johnny!" Johnny quickly turned to the back of the book & found out that the hero won & the villain got killed. As he went to takeout the trash, he waved the book & yelled, "Yeeeah, you old villain, you got it good in the middle of the book, but you ain't in the last chapter. You are in for a surprise!

CONCL.: The One seated on that mock throne will one day be seated on His real throne & every knee will bow to Him & worship Him. He will be crowned not with a crown of thorns, but with a crown of jewels. He won't be riding a donkey, but a white stallion. He won't be nailed on a Cross but will rule as King of Kings.

Why not crown Him King of your life NOW?!