

04-09-2017

**Message: Psalms of the Messiah - Christ's Willingness to Suffer**

**Text: Psalm 118**

### **Introduction**

A. Today is known as Palm Sunday in many Christian churches throughout the world, commemorating the beginning of Passion Week when Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem with crowds waving celebratory branches, shouting, "Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." It was a procession that began on the Mount of Olives, descended and crossed the Kidron brook, then proceeded up Mt. Zion and into the Jerusalem temple.

Mark 11:7 They brought the colt to Jesus and put their coats on it; and He sat on it.<sup>8</sup> And many spread their coats in the road, and others *spread* leafy branches which they had cut from the fields.<sup>9</sup> Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting: "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD;<sup>10</sup> Blessed *is* the coming kingdom of our father David; Hosanna in the highest!"<sup>11</sup> Jesus entered Jerusalem *and came* into the temple;

B. This entry into Jerusalem and its temple by Jesus, God's Messiah, was celebrated prophetically by the Jews beginning many centuries before the birth of Jesus using Psalm 118, the last of a collection of six psalms sung during the Passover feast known as the Egyptian Hallel - "hallel" being the Hebrew word meaning "praise" as in "hallelujah" = "praise Yahweh."

C. That Psalm 118 is a messianic psalm, prophetic of the coming of Jesus Messiah is evident from Peter's Spirit-filled proclamation, explaining to Jewish rulers upon healing a lame man that Jesus is the fulfillment of verses 22.

Psalm 118:22 **The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone.**

Acts 4:10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of **Jesus Christ** the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead-- by this *name* this man stands here before you in good health.<sup>11</sup> "**He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone.**"<sup>12</sup> "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

D. While Psalm 118 is sung at the end of the Passover meal up to this very day, it was most likely used in early Jewish life in liturgical processions of corporate worship entering the temple. As we unpack this psalm, consider that the psalmist was inspired by the Spirit of the pre-incarnate Christ to serve us.

1 Peter 1:10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful searches and inquiries, <sup>11</sup> **seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.** <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things into which angels long to look.

E. Therefore, in this psalm we see the heart and work of Christ revealed to us.

**I. Christ's resolve to suffer for us is evident in His calling us to give thanks for His "hesed," His covenant-keeping love.**

A. The procession's worship leader begins calling the procession's participants and accompanying crowd to give thanks to the Lord for His goodness and "hesed," translated "lovingkindness."

Psalm 118:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for **His lovingkindness (hesed) is everlasting.** 2 Oh let Israel say,

**"His lovingkindness (hesed) is everlasting."**

3 Oh let the house of Aaron say,

**"His lovingkindness (hesed) is everlasting."**

4 Oh let those who fear the LORD say,

**"His lovingkindness (hesed) is everlasting."**

B. The Hebrew word "hesed" can't be translated by a single English word. It is often used in the Scriptures in conjunction with a covenant relationship, understood to convey covenant loyalty, covenant love, which is a covenant-keeping love.

C. So the eternal Son, before He ever came to earth as a man, is revealing that when He comes, He will be faithful in love to keep His covenant promise to inaugurate a New Covenant, effective in providing for the forgiveness of His people's sins by becoming their Passover sacrifice. Christ did not happen to fall helplessly into an unfortunate series of events that turned His Palm Sunday triumph into a Good Friday tragedy. He planned and appointed these events to take place, being resolved to come and die to put into effect the promised New Covenant in His blood. In "hesed" He would not shrink back and turn away.

Matthew 26:27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; <sup>28</sup> for **this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.**

1 Corinthians 5:7 ... **Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.**

**II. Christ's willingness to be put under distress by those who would hate him was undergirded by His faith in God to deliver Him.**

- A. Christ intended to put Himself under distress by those who would hate Him, mock Him, falsely accuse Him, torture and murder Him.

5 **From my distress I called upon the LORD;** The LORD answered me *and set me* in a large place. 6 **The LORD is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?** 7 **The LORD is for me** among those who help me; Therefore I will look *with satisfaction* on those who hate me.

- B. He encourages us to put that same confidence and trust in the Lord and not fear anyone or anything else.

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If **God is for us**, who *is* against us?

Hebrews 13:6 so that we confidently say, "**THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?**"

- C. The Lord is to be our trusted refuge above even the most powerful political, religious, business, academic, cultural leaders.

8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. 9 **It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.**

John 19:9 and he entered into the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> **So Pilate said to Him, "You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?"** <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, "**You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; ...**"

- D. All those who oppose the Lord will be cut off, and His faithful ones delivered.

10 **All nations surrounded me; In the name of the LORD I will surely cut them off.**

11 They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me; In the name of the LORD I will surely cut them off. 12 They surrounded me like bees; They were extinguished as a fire of thorns; In the name of the LORD I will surely cut them off. 13 You pushed me violently so that I was falling, **but the LORD helped me. 14 The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation.**

- E. As a result, there will be joyful worship among the righteous. The lone voice hears the faithful's shouts ...

15 **The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous;**

The right hand of the LORD does valiantly. 16 **The right hand of the LORD is exalted; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.**

### III. Christ was willing to suffer death, knowing that God would not leave Him in the grave.

As the procession approaches the temple with its alter, the king/priest does not waver, but this lone voice calls upon the gatekeepers of the temple to open the gates of righteousness, for only the righteous are invited to enter into the worship of God.

17 **I will not die, but live, and tell of the works of the LORD.** 18 **The LORD has disciplined me severely, but He has not given me over to death.** 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness; I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to the LORD.

20 This is the gate of the LORD; The righteous will enter through it.

21 I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me, and **You have become my salvation.**

### IV. Christ desired to suffer, knowing that He would become the source of salvation for all of His people who call upon His Name.

A. The congregation following the procession says prophetically of Christ ...

22 **The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone.** 23 **This is the LORD'S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.** 24 **This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

B. They continued with shouting "Hosanna," derived from combining "yasha" = "save, deliver" and "anna" = "beg, beseech," followed by the gatekeepers of the temple blessing the approaching king/priest.

25 O LORD, **do save (yasha), we beseech (anna) You;** O LORD, we beseech You, do send prosperity!

26 **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;**  
We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.

C. The crowds following Jesus to Jerusalem's temple spontaneously under God's providence broke out with the words of this psalm applying them to Jesus!

Matthew 21:9 The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, **"Hosanna to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD;** Hosanna in the highest!" ... " <sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and the

scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, and the children who were shouting in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became indignant<sup>16</sup> and said to Him, "Do You hear what these *children* are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, **'OUT OF THE MOUTH OF INFANTS AND NURSING BABIES YOU HAVE PREPARED PRAISE FOR YOURSELF'?**"

**V. Christ was willing to suffer and lay down His life due to the greatness of His love for His friends.**

- A. Here we have the words of the congregation followed by the priests now ready to offer up the festival sacrifice, followed by the lone voice of the king/priest, a type of Jesus our Messiah/King and high priest, giving thanks to the Lord.

**27 The LORD is God, and He has given us light;**

**Bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.**

**28 You are my God, and I give thanks to You; *You are my God, I extol You.***

- B. But the steps to Christ's alter, the cross, were anything but pleasant, festive, enjoyable. Does hearing that He suffered create any picture in our minds? To help us, picture this. (Show dvd clip)

John 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you."<sup>13</sup> **"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."**

**Application** - Our response to the love, sacrifice, and example of Christ:

- A. Trust in our Lord to deliver us from our enemies, the last enemy being death.

Psalm 118:6 The LORD is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me? ...<sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

- B. Call upon His name to save us from our sins.

Romans 10:13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

- C. Lay down our lives for His sake, and for His people.

Luke 9:22 saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day."<sup>23</sup> And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, **he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.**"<sup>24</sup> "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.**

1 John 3:16 We know love by this, that **He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**

D. Build our lives upon Christ, the cornerstone

1 Peter 2:4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,<sup>5</sup> **you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ...** <sup>7</sup> **This precious value, then, is for you who believe;** but for those who disbelieve, **"THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER *stone*,"**

E. Worship Him for His goodness and covenant-keeping love toward us.

Psalm 118:29 **Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.**