

Palm Sunday

Theme: We can get clouded by our own hopes and desires, so much so that we can live in or believe in an illusion.

Even more, we learn how quickly people can turn if they don't get what they want, even if it is not what they need. In some measure, we have always been a consumer-oriented society, and that started in the garden

The Problem:

Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV) **And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."**

Genesis 3:6 (NIV) **When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.**

1. When we want something now, there seem to be no boundaries
2. We are trained we have a right to what we want
3. Instant gratification

The first "Palm Sunday:

John 12:12-18 (NIV) **The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him. Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet him.**

1. The hopes and anticipation of the crowd
 - a. Freedom from the Romans
 - b. Political self-rule
 - c. A leader who will provide for their hopes and dreams
2. Jesus appears to be on His way to giving them what they want

The hopes dashed, and the crowd turns

John 19:4-6 (NIV) **Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!"**

1. It is not simply that people can be fickle. It is more. We are angry when someone does not give us what we want.
2. There are times people believe an illusion, and therefore, are, by definition, "let down" and feel betrayed.