



Palm Sunday: Connecting to Christ

Did you know that God usually requires us to DO something to connect with Christ? We have to repent to receive forgiveness; spend time in prayer to hear His voice; and give Him first priority in our lives to receive His blessings. Today we will learn what Palm Sunday teaches us about Connecting to Christ.

The First Palm Sunday was all about...

PREPARING to Connect to Christ

Isaiah prophesied about a messenger preparing for Christ to come.

He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord's coming! Clear the road for Him!'" This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. Mark 1:3-4

REPENTANCE is the FIRST step to Connect to Christ.

Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River **to be baptized** by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" Matthew 3:13-14

But Jesus said, "It should be done, for **we must carry out all that God requires.**" So John agreed to baptize Him. Matthew 3:15

Jesus said baptism was not optional, even for Him!

BAPTISM is the NEXT step to Connect to Christ.

After His baptism, as Jesus came up **out of the water**, (immersion) the heavens were opened and **He saw the Spirit of God** descending like a dove and settling on Him. Matthew 3:16

Connecting to Christ has Both NATURAL and SPIRITUAL Steps

Jesus entering Jerusalem, sends 2 disciples ahead.

“Go into that village over there,” He told them. “As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.”³¹ If anyone asks, ‘Why are you untying that colt?’ just say, ‘**The Lord needs it and will return it soon.**’” Mark 11:2-3

The disciples get the colt and put their clothes on it.

Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of Him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. Mark 11:8

John 12 tells us the branches were Palms.

Garments: symbolized covering, giving them was a spiritual act honoring Christ.

Palms: symbolized victory to Romans, but of the Jews it was the Feast of Tabernacles the ingathering. They were **spiritually accepting Jesus as Messiah.**

Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around Him were shouting, “Praise God! [*Hosanna*] Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Mark 11:9

Hosanna: save now!

On Palm Sunday Christ Wants to **CONNECT WITH YOU**

Don't Miss God's MOMENT!

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, **but you wouldn't let me.** Matthew 23:37

My Next Steps THIS WEEK:

- ☐ **INVITE 10 People to Easter Services**
- ☐ **PRAY for the Easter Services**
- ☐ **SERVE at One Service for Easter**

Tithes & Offerings

No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Matthew 6:24

As we look at our Connection to Christ, giving is one thing that measures our conversion.

3 conversions: the heart, mind and purse
- Martin Luther



**Invite people to Next Sunday Easter at House of Praise!
two services 10:00am and 12:00pm.**