



Matthew 26:17-30 (NIV)

¹⁷ On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

¹⁸ He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’” ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹ And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?”

²³ Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “You have said so.”

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.



SERMON NOTES

A Sacramental Moment

How do I develop an **Up Hill Faith** when facing downhill problems?

They **SERVED** together

“So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.” Mt 26:19

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.” Eccl 4:9

They **ATE** together

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer Acts 2:42

When I know where I **BELONG**, I know who I can **BECOME**

They **GRIEVED** together

They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?”

“If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.” Eccl 4:10

They **WORSHIPPED** together

(1) I matter this much to God, 2. I am connected to these people 3. to fulfill a great mission

They **SANG** together

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. V30

“God inhabits the praise of his people” Psalm 22:3

God inhabits in the praises of His people (Psalms 22:3)

His Favorite Song of All by Dan Dean

He loves to hear the wind sing
As it echoes through the pines on mountain peaks
He loves to hear the raindrops
As they splash to the ground in a magic melody
He smiles in sweet approval
As the waves crash to the rocks in harmony
Creation joins in unity to sing to Him majestic symphonies
But His favorite song of all
is the song of the redeemed
When lost sinners now made clean lift their voices loud and strong
When those purchased by His blood
lift to Him a song of love
Nothing more He'd rather hear, nor so pleasing to His ear
As His favorite song of all

He loves to hear the angels as they sing, "Holy, holy is the Lamb"
Heaven's choirs in harmony lift up praises to the great I Am
But He lifts His hands for silence
When the weakest saved by grace begins to sing
And a million angels listen as a newborn soul
sings, "I have been redeemed"
repeat chorus
It's not just melodies and harmonies that catches his attention
It's not just clever lines and phrases that causes Him to stop and listen
But when any heart set free, washed and bought by Calvary
begins to sing

SACRED JOURNEY

THE MEANING OF PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The Gospels record the arrival of Jesus riding into the city on a donkey, while the crowds spread their cloaks and palm branches on the street and shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" to honor him as their long-awaited Messiah and King. [John 12:12-15, Matthew 21:6-9, Mark 11:8-10]

The significance of Jesus riding a donkey and having his way prepared with palm branches is a fulfillment of a prophecy spoken by the prophet Zechariah 9:9 "See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" In biblical times, the regional custom called for kings and nobles arriving in procession to ride on the back of a donkey. It was perceived that Jesus was declaring he was the King of Israel to the anger of the Sanhedrin. The donkey was a symbol of peace; those who rode upon them proclaimed peaceful intentions. Jesus' entry to Jerusalem would thus symbolize his entry as the Prince of Peace, not as a war-waging king on horseback.

The arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem is also in agreement with the commandment that the Passover Lamb be in the house with the family four days before it is be killed for the Passover sacrifice. (Exodus 12:3-6)