

**AS A MAN THINKETH:
PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017
HITZ 92 FM 8.00 A.M.**

THEME

PRAYER: Welcome Lord, with palms we strew your way, and with songs we greet you. You come to us in peace, not as our enemy but as our friend, not to make war but to reconcile, not to destroy but to heal. You come to the city where there is tension and danger, where ideas fly like arrows and people hunt for power.

Lord, you have chosen to come in peace, armed with the strength of love: let us with you, work to bring peace where there is war, love where there is hate and revenge, healing where there is division and compassion where people no longer share with one another.

In the name of Jesus the Prince of peace and love we pray.
Amen.

HYMN: Hosanna, loud Hosanna! U Tube

The Thought for the Day: “God’s unfailing Love”

The Passage for Meditation comes from: Matthew 21: 1 – 11.

‘As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you

will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵“Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”^[a]

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.’

⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna^[b] to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”^[c]

“Hosanna^[d] in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰**When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”**

¹¹The crowds answered, **“This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.” (Matt. 21: 1-6 & 9-11.)**

THE MEDITATION

Who is this? Can you imagine the excitement? Hymn 152 (MHB) Read verse 2.

This question seems to be on everyone's lips as Jesus processes into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. Is this the question on the minds of the two disciples whom Jesus sends to the next village for a donkey and a colt? Could they perhaps have been aware that, according to Zechariah 14: 4, the Mount of Olives is the place where God will defeat Israel's enemies and inaugurate a new creation? And might they have understood the significance of the donkey ride into Jerusalem? Jesus has walked thus far on foot. Why now, so near to Jerusalem, does he request a donkey? Would the two disciples have understood the messianic prophetic symbolism of this request and quietly asked themselves, **“Who is this?”**

Here's the problem, the sticking point on this gloriously celebrative morning: Jesus has said that he must die. He tells the twelve disciples straight out, **“Look, when we get to Jerusalem, I will be handed over to the Temple leaders, and they will condemn me to death, they will give me to the Romans, and the Romans will nail me to a cross.”** Somehow that part hasn't sunk in yet, and on this day of applause and adulation, the twelve won't get any closer to comprehension. “No, Jesus, that can't be,” Peter said, and Jesus says **“Get out of my way, Satan!”** This is not up for debate or vote, no matter what the twelve and the crowds think Jesus ought to do.

So who is this Man? He looks really peaceful sitting there on the donkey, but the man in the Temple is a little

scary. Do you think he wants to die-that he is deliberately getting them riled up so that he can be crucified? No, I don't think Jesus has a death wish. But here's what he said: **you gain your life by giving it away. You want to be number one: Be a servant, not a king. You want to enter God's ideal realm someday? Then pick up your cross.**

If he's a king, then he intends to rule from the cross. If he's a prophet, then he's going to be like Amos, standing up for the helpless and standing up to the powerful. If he's the Son of God, then he's going to demonstrate his power, not by calling on the mob to storm the Temple with him, **but by trusting that God's power will prevail.**

Who is this Man? He's your master and mine. But sometimes he makes me and you really nervous. What if he asked me/you to follow him, to step off the edge with him, to go all the way to Good Friday with him and then to whatever lies beyond? Do we really want to know him as well as we say we do? His close disciples didn't do it!

When Jesus enters Jerusalem the whole city stirs and asks, "Who is this?" His presence in the world today can effect the same response. Where the body of Christ faithfully exhibits and reflects the unfailing love of God today, people still want to know, "Who is this?" May we be ever willing and able to answer with the words of our text, "This is ...Jesus

Appeal verse 5 of hymn # 152

Prayer: Stir my heart, O God, and grant me the humility, love, and courage to be your witness today at home, at school, at the work place, at the market place, and in my community. Amen.

Hymn: Ride on, Ride on in Majesty. U Tube

Benediction: May God be your source of peace and hope and power all day long. Amen.