

# Pastor's Pen

Palm Sunday

***So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" John 12:13***

This Sunday is Palm Sunday. On that Sunday of Passion Week, Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey. This event of Jesus entry is recorded in all four Gospels (Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19). His entry was prophesied by the prophet Zechariah 500 years before Christ's birth: *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Make a loud shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and endowed with salvation, Lowly and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a pack animal* (Zech. 9:9).

Have you ever wondered why Jesus rode on a donkey instead of a horse? If He was declared the King of Israel, wouldn't it be more appropriate for Him to ride into Jerusalem on a mighty stallion? That would be what the world would expect. That was what the Jews thought Jesus was: a conquering hero and King who would free them from the Roman yoke. Instead, He rode in on a beast of burden. How appropriate is the symbolism of Jesus' entry? He was about to take on the burden of every man's sin that would believe in Him.

He entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday 2,000 years ago on a donkey. He was the Lamb that would take away the sins of the world. In less than a week, He would be beaten, whipped, nailed to a tree, mocked, and die. He would be buried for three days. But that is not the end of the story because, on the third day, He rose from the dead and is now seated at the Father's right hand.

One day, Jesus will ride a horse when the world sees Him again. These are the words from John in the Book of Revelation: *Then I saw Heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war* (Rev. 16:11). On the day of His Second Coming he will not be a lamb to be slaughtered, but He will return as the Lion of Judea. He will not be riding a donkey but a white horse, leading the armies of Heaven against the haters of God. And do you know who is with Him? You, I, and every believer who has ever lived up to that point. God allows us the hope and joy of knowing that as we live for Christ while we are alive, we will return to Him when He reclaims what is rightfully His (Rev. 16:14).

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

## Grace Gems

Building God's Kingdom  
- John MacArthur

***"Thy kingdom come" (Matt. 6:10)***

Conversion to Christ involves three elements: invitation, repentance, and commitment.

Someday Christ will return to earth to reign in His kingdom. In the meantime He rules in the hearts of those who love Him.

### Quote of the Week

*"Great numbers of persons have no concern about eternal things. They care more about their cats and dogs than about their souls."*  
-Charles Spurgeon

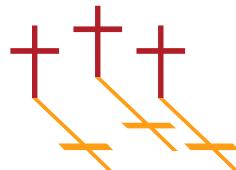
Before He ascended into heaven, Jesus gave us a mandate to evangelize the lost and teach them His Word (Matt. 28:19- 20). When we do, sinners are converted and transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13). That's how His kingdom grows.

Conversion is a work of the Spirit in the heart of unbelievers. He uses a myriad of people and circumstances to accomplish that work, but common to every true conversion are three key elements: invitation, repentance, and commitment.

In Matthew 22:1-14 Jesus, by way of a parable, invites people to come into His kingdom. As an evangelist, you too should not only present the gospel, but also invite others to respond to what they've heard. In Mark 1:14-15 we read, "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'" Repentance is feeling sorrow over your sin and turning from it (2 Cor. 7:9-11).

True repentance results in a commitment to respond to the righteous demands of the gospel. In Mark 12:34 Jesus says to a wise scribe, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." The scribe had all the information necessary for entering the kingdom. What he lacked was a commitment to act on what he knew. Luke 9:62 says, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." You might know everything about the kingdom, but Christ's rule is not established in your heart until you've made a complete commitment to it.

When you pray for Christ's kingdom to come, you are praying an evangelistic prayer that you take part in answering. Be faithful to proclaim the gospel and make intercession for unbelievers a regular part of your prayers.



# Weekly Gatherings

## Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes

Ladies Class

Young Adults    Young Parents

Youth              Surge

Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM



## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study

1st and 3rd Saturday

Women of Grace | 9AM

Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA



## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM

Please check church website  
for start date and directions to each



## Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team  
and need to sign up, please contact the  
team leader at the appropriate email  
address on the back of this bulletin.



## Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM

Youth Study & Surge!



## Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM

Sunday School 9:30AM

Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 03/17/2024

General Offering .....	8,533.11
Building Fund .....	4,044.08
Uganda Missions .....	133.25
G3 Offering .....	95.00

Total.....\$12,805.44

Attendance ..... 220

Online.....30

G3 Foreign Missions .....\$830.50

## Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH  
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# Grace Harvest Bible Church

Mar 24, 2024

