

PALM SUNDAY
Journey to Fulfillment
John 12:12-36

The triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday marked the beginning of the final leg of the earthly journey for Jesus. What began in a humble Bethlehem manger 33 years prior would soon reach the finish line on an ugly cross of Calvary. The last week of Jesus's earthly life would begin with the shouts of praise from the people and end with His final words of fulfillment from the cross, "***It is finished!***" This journey to the cross is the call to each of us to discover the path to true fulfillment in life.

1. We must understand God's grand story.

"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."

John 12:16 (NIV)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." **John 1:1-5 (NIV)**

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." **Matthew 5:17**

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." **John 20:31 (NIV)**

2. We must evaluate our life's quest in light of Jesus.

*"Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. 'Sir,' they said, 'we would like to see Jesus.'" **John 12:20-21 (NIV)***

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." **2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NIV)**

*"But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ..." **Philippians 3:7-8 (NIV)***

3. We must live to bring glory to God.

“Now My heart is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.’” **John 12:27-28 (NIV)**

“Going a little farther, He fell with His face to the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will... may Your will be done.’”

Matthew 26:39-42 (NIV)

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” **Colossians 3:17 (NIV)**

4. We must fully embrace the cross of Christ as the way of life.

“Jesus said, ‘This voice was for your benefit, not Mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.’ He said this to show the kind of death He was going to die.” **John 12:30-33 (NIV)**

“Then He said to the crowd, ‘If any of you wants to be My follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross daily, and follow Me.’” **Luke 9:23 (NLT)**

“I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.” **Philippians 3:10-11 (NIV)**