

From the Pulpit of the Japanese Baptist Church of North Texas  
March 20, 2016

He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord

John 12:12-19

12:12 The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.

12:13 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!"

12:14 And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

12:15 "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

12:16 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.

12:17 The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness.

12:18 The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

12:19 So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

Today is "Palm Sunday". Lord Jesus came to the Temple through a gate of Jerusalem by riding a young donkey. People took palm branches in their hands and welcome Him shouting, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" Then, we decorate the church with palm today. We receive a leaf of palm and have a procession into the worship hall with leaves of palm. Then we make small crosses with the leaves and bring them home. We do these things to remember Lord Jesus. Then how should we remember him this Sunday. This morning let us learn it together.

## **1. Jesus as the Savior**

First we remember Lord Jesus as the Savior whom God sent us. People shouted, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” while the procession. “He who comes in the name of the Lord” means “The Savior who God has sent.” The pious people of Judea have been longing the Savior for many years. God sent many helpers and save people from various kinds of sufferings. People thought, “Is this man the Savior?” But they couldn't give long lasting helps to the people. They only gave temporally relieves. They were not who came “in the name of the Lord.” Some people tried to beat the Roman Empire by saying, “I am the Savior.” They are not real saviors. They didn't come “in the name of the Lord”, but in their own names.

Jesus Christ is the only One who came “in the name of the Lord.” God had showed the profile of Savior from many years before the Savior came. When He came, people could find who was the Savior by the words of God. God told that the Savior would be born from a virgin, at Bethlehem. He would spent in Egypt, then raised in the land of Galilee. We can find the prophecies that the Savior teaches the Word of God, performs powerful works of God such as miracles and healing. The Savior should be opposed, suffered, and taken life. However, he should be risen from the dead. If someone wants to become a savior, he should fulfill all of the prophecies. Who can be born from virgin and be risen from the dead except Lord Jesus. Lord Jesus is only One who fulfilled the prophecies of the Bible. The Lord showed Himself as the Savior by having fulfilled all of the prophecy.

Lord Jesus testified that He came in the name of the Lord before the event of the Cross and Resurrection. How? By way of his

character, teaching and powerful works. Who could deny holiness, righteousness, meekness and kindness of Lord Jesus? Even if those who did not believe the Lord as their Savior, they paid the highest respect to him. No one was able to teach God and truth of life as the Lord. His miracles and healing power clearly testified that He was the Son of God and the Savior.

However, the Jewish people looked at Lord Jesus with prejudice and preoccupation. Even though Lord Jesus proved that He was the Son of God, they did not accept Him. That's why the Lord said "I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him." in John 5:43. I am sure Lord said so with tremendous sorrow. He was not frustrated because he was not received, but because people rejected the Savior, which meant that they were not going to be saved. There are people who need salvation and here is the Savior within their reach, but they would not receive salvation. That is nothing but sorrow and frustration.

People at that time rejected Lord Jesus and put him on the Cross. They fiercely rejected Him and violently treated him. We look at these people and feel so angry about the way they treated Jesus, but looking back our own path, we have done the same thing to Jesus, haven't we? In response to Jesus and His invitation, we don't violently reject Him by saying, "that is a total lie, I don't need it", but instead we say, "that sounds wonderful, but no thank you. May be next time." Even if it is violently or politely, it makes no difference in that you reject Savior and His invitation. On the Palm Sunday, let's remind ourselves that Lord Jesus came in the name of the Lord. Let's welcome Lord Jesus,

who comes into our heart and life, with pleasure.

## **2. Jesus as a King**

Secondly, we remember Jesus as a king. There is a prophecy fulfilled on the Palm Sunday “See, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” As it says, Lord Jesus came as a king. When the people took palm branches and welcomed him passionately, they expected that Lord Jesus will announce “I am a king of Judah” and lead their independence war against Roman Empire. Surely, Lord Jesus entered Jerusalem but not to become a king of Judah nor leader of war against the Roman Empire. The origin of “See, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” is this. “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.” (Zechariah 9:9-10) According to this verse of the Old Testament, the king’s rule extends from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth. Lord Jesus is the king of the whole world, of all the people.

“King is seated on the donkey” means that He is the King of Peace. And, it means this king is gentle and snuggled up to the people at the same time. Ancient kings rode on their horses when they return from the battle with victory. The horses were big so you will be seen well by people when you are on the horses. The kings look down and the people look up. However, Lord Jesus rode on the donkey instead of

horse; moreover, it was an infant donkey. The donkey was small so even if he rode on, it was same as the height of other people. He never look down so he could see face to face. Also, the donkey can not run as fast as horse. The donkey walks as fast as people do. Professor Kosuke Koyama who was a professor of Union Seminary, published a book called “Three Mile an Hour God”. “Three Mile an Hour God” is Lord Jesus. Lord Jesus was born to this world and walked around the land of Isreal three miles an hour. He walked with the people, and brought God’s grace to their daily life. Lord Jesus is superior to any kings, any presidents, and any dictators. He is standing at the right hand of God. But, he is still walking with us everyday. He is the gentle king.

Also, we know that Lord Jesus’ humility and humbleness not only walked with people but also lowered himself even more. In Philippians 2:6-8 said, “Though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Philippians describes that Jesus, Lord of Glory, was born in human form and was in the likeness of us, but on the other hand, in Isaiah’s prophecy, it says, “As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—” (Isaiah 52:14 ) Before crucified, Jesus was beaten and whipped; his body was covered in bruises and as terrible as witnesses might withdraw their eyes from Him. The word “Savior” has the meaning of “Healer” and our Savior is the “Wounded

Healer.”

On Palm Sunday, those who fanatically welcomed Jesus Christ did not predict that Lord Jesus would be going to be crucified, but while the week of Palm Sunday, they witnessed the Cross, and next week they heard of the news of the resurrection; and finally they recognized that the independence Jesus had achieved was the salvation from sin, and the kingdom is fully controlled by righteousness, love and joy.

Since we accepted Jesus Christ, who came in the name of Lord, the King, we are nourished, guided, and accompanied by King Jesus. The Palm Sunday is the day to welcome Him in our heart and life, and to follow Him who was obedient to the point of death on the cross for us. The word “Hosanna” means “Save us.” For Jesus Christ, there is no smallest or biggest problems of us; He cares even though we have only a small trouble, and solves such a huge suffering. We shall call on Him saying “Hosanna, save us” every time every day. This is what we should do on this Sunday.

**(Prayer)**

Dear Father, you gave us Jesus Christ, the Savior. You have shown Him as our King, saying, “Look, your King.” Let our eyes see Lord Jesus, and let us trust our King, who saved us through the Cross and Resurrection, and gave us life, saying “Hosanna, save us.” In the name of our Lord Jesus, Amen.