

## Palm Sunday (Cycle C)

If someone was to ask the crowd during Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, "What does Jesus of Nazareth mean to you?" Many of them would have said that "He is the Messiah. Blessed is his name!"

If someone was to ask the same crowd on Good Friday, "What does Jesus of Nazareth mean to you?" Many of the same people would have said that "He claimed to be our King. He should be crucified!"

Now only a few days had passed from being adored to being reviled by what was essentially the same people. What changed for Jesus?

Did Jesus change? Did he alter his message?

We know the answer is "no". Jesus didn't change, so then why did popular opinion change?

Perhaps the answer is that these people didn't really know Jesus.

Oh, they probably heard of his miracles: healing the blind, making

the lame walk, raising the dead, feeding the thousands. Some probably heard his message as well, or maybe bits of it. But most were looking for something else. They were looking for a Warrior King who would fix all of their problems and drive the evil Romans away.

In the words of that old country song “They were looking for love in all the wrong places.”

Jesus wasn't a warrior king.

Jesus wasn't a political figure.

Jesus was something better.

Jesus was God's Son...a prophet like no other...who came to announce the coming of God's Kingdom to this world.

Jesus came to proclaim love, healing, forgiveness and justice for all.

So, to the political and religious leaders, Jesus was bad news. He would wreck the status quo and ruin the economy.

Soon after he was arrested, I am sure that the High Priest got his political machine working spreading stories about Jesus. You can imagine what was being said about him.

He is in league with Romans!

He plans to destroy the Temple!

He works for the Devil!

Within a short time, the same people who were worked up into a frenzy over his coming were calling for his death.

But we shouldn't be too hard of the Jerusalem crowd, because we are like them in many ways.

In our own modern world, we still have people easily led to condemn someone or something without knowing all the facts. All too easily, a joyous crowd can become an angry mob. We see it happen over and over again.

Whenever WE feel like we are being swept along by our emotions...

Whenever WE feel like following the crowd...

We should stop and think of fickle crowds on Palm Sunday and the Passion of our Lord.

Stop and think about what we believe.

Stop and think about what our Faith teaches us?

Stop and think: “What does Jesus of Nazareth mean to you?”