

Praise For Life

Opening video:

In this video, the people of this mega church had high expectations of this new pastor coming in!!

- Someone very prestigious
- A mighty anointed man of God!!

But when he walked up, he wasn't exactly what they expected...

- But he was exactly what they needed!!

Now while this video is very touching, but probably just a good story created to make a very valid point...

We are celebrating something today that is very similar to this story, but very real!!...

- The story of Jesus
- King of kings
- Lord of lords

The Jews were expecting a warrior king to come and free them from the oppression of Rome...

- Elegant and majestic...
- What they got wasn't exactly what they expected...
- But He was everything they needed!!

Scripture:

Matthew 21:1-11

“Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.” All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.’” So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’”

Hosanna in the highest!" And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.""

Not what the expected....

- **A humble Savior riding on a donkey...**
- **Yet the true King in all His Glory!!!**

And in that moment, something special happened...

- **Someone began to praise Him as The King!!**
- **Then another joined in,**
- **And they spread their clothes and palm leaves on the ground before Him**
- **And others came out to praise Him!!**

There's something awesome about getting into an atmosphere of Praise and Worship!!

- **For the moment, all of your troubles seem far away**
- **For the moment your faith can reach its highest level**
- **For the moment you believe everything is possible**
- **At that moment, you could walk on water!!!**

That's exactly what happened in this Scripture...

- **Jesus is coming down the mountain**
- **As The King of Glory!!**
- **His followers begin to praise Him (the way He deserves)**
- **Other people take notice and gather around....**

We just talked for a month about being in the presence of God...Can you imagine the anointing in that atmosphere!!!

- **Other people start feeling that drawing to Jesus...**
- **Conviction sets in...and they feel the need for Christ in that moment**
- **Then they start to praise Him!!!**
- **Now there's so much praise happening that the earth literally shakes!!!**

Glory to God!!!!

- **For the moment...Everyone was praising Jesus...**

But the strangest thing can happen once you step out of that worship service, out of that atmosphere....

If you're not careful

- **You begin to acclimate to the new atmosphere you enter into...**
- **When we enter into bitter, angry, depressing, hateful, atmospheres**
- **We can be pulled in and start acting just like those around us!!!**

The simple truth is that we're not always going to find ourselves in an atmosphere of praise and worship...

What am I trying to say...

- **You aren't always going to walk into atmospheres filled with praise**
- **You have to set the atmosphere of praise around you!!**
- **You got to bring the praise with you!!**

My message to you today is simply this...

- **Don't let your praise be for the moment**
- **Let your praise be for life!!!**

Maybe you've heard the saying

- **We are supposed to be thermostats**
- **Not thermometer**
- **We are supposed to set the atmosphere where we are**
- **Not simply display it...**

You have to bring the praise with you!!!

Regardless of the circumstance

Praise for Life!!