

were untied they were set free. They were loosed from the ropes or straps that held them in bondage. To untie meant to set free; do away with; or put an end to. When asked about it, they were to answer "The Lord has need of them." God sets us free from the bondage of sin because He has need of us.

2. The Prophecy . (verses 4-5)

a. The symbolism .

You may read these verses and say so what. Jesus borrowed a donkey and rode it into the City. There's more to it than that. What Jesus did was fulfill a prophecy spoken by the Prophet in Zechariah 9:9. Zechariah spoke these words in 520 BC. Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Babylonians 66 years earlier. In Zechariah's day, Jerusalem was still in ruins and the process of rebuilding had just begun. But Zechariah speaks of a day when the Messiah would come and Jerusalem will be filled with His glory. A vital element on this "Road to Redemption" is the fact that Jesus Christ was the direct fulfillment of prophecy.

b. The fulfillment .

The late great preacher Adrian Rogers said "the probability of one man fulfilling just eight of the prophecies referring to the Messiah is 1 in 100 trillion." To further illustrate this he said suppose that we would take 100 trillion silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. One hundred trillion silver dollars would cover the entire state of Texas two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but one in 100 trillion odds means he must pick up the marked silver dollar on the first chance. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man.

By the way, that is just the possibility of one man fulfilling 8 prophecies. Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies the first time He came. And there is one that He will soon fulfill and that is the prophecy of His return.

3. The Parade . (verses 6-11)

a. The people .

In this multitude that day, there were many different categories of people present. Consider:

- *Some were followers.* There were many followers of Christ present on this day. There were the 12 Disciples (later referred to as Apostles) whom Jesus had chosen and ordained. - Then there were the general disciples who followed Jesus. Some were not only excited to see Jesus they were looking for Him before He arrived (John 11:56). The followers were present and they were praising the Messiah.

- *Some were enemies.* The enemies of Christ were never far away. They kept close watch on Him throughout His ministry. They constantly attempted to trip Him up in theological debate. According to the other Gospel writers, representatives from all factions who were against Jesus were there. Even today, when Jesus is present, you can rest assured that His enemies won't be far away.

- *Some were skeptics.* There was a great crowd on this day. They were not quite enemies of Christ like the Pharisees but they were just not convinced that He was who He said He was. In the world we live in today the same groups of people still exist.

There are followers of Christ, there are enemies of Christ and there are some who are skeptical concerning Christ. In fact there is probably some of each category present with us today. As Jesus rode this animal on the road to victory there were

many people present. Fortunately, many of those people offered Him the praise that He so rightfully deserved.

b. The praise .

Here we read that a multitude of people went before and cried out, saying: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" Hosanna meaning "help, I pray" or "save, I pray." This word had become a shout of praise and adoration. We can see the motive of their praise in these verses:

- *They praised Him for what He had done.* Can you imagine the amazing atmosphere of worship on that day? They all joined together and shouted and praised the Messiah for "His mighty works." There is much that we could learn from this multitude of disciples. It is my opinion that we have even more reasons to rejoice and praise our Savior. We are on this side of the Cross. We know that He was in fact crucified. We know that He was resurrected. We know that He ascended. We know that He sent His Holy Spirit to indwell us. We know that He is ever with us. We know that He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. We know that we can have a personal relationship with Him. We know that one day He is coming back for us. We know that He is taking us home with Him. We know that we will live with Him for eternity. We know that He has defeated sin, Satan, Death, Hell and the grave. Soon He will split the Eastern sky with a shout, with the voice of an Archangel and the sound of a trumpet, He will call His children home. We will rise up out of this world of sorrow and we will meet Him in the air. Knowing all that we know we have ample reason to join together with a loud voice and shout praises to our King.

- *They praised Him for Who He was* (John 12:12). As this crowd praised Him they referred to Him as "Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee"..."Son of David"..."the King of Israel" and "The King that comes in the name of The Lord." Just like the crowd present on that day we should praise Him for Who He is. He is Emmanuel (God with us). He is our Lord. He is our Master. He is our Savior. He is our Comforter. He is our Healer. He is our burden bearer. He is our friend. He is the ultimate conqueror. For all of that and so much more we ought to gather together and praise His Holy Name.

c. The problems .

There are always problems when you hold a parade. Not everyone was thrilled to see Jesus on that day. There were some who were furious with Him. In Luke 19:39-40 we see some of the Pharisees demanded that He rebuke His disciples. Leave it to "religious" people to find fault with people praising Jesus. Whether the Pharisees liked it or not, Jesus accepted the praises of the people. Whether men will praise Christ or not He must be praised. If the multitude had remained silent, God would have given the stones a voice to praise the Messiah. He's just as worthy of our praise today. Let's give unto Him the praise He so rightly deserves.

d. The power .

This multitude of disciples praised Him for all His mighty works. Jesus had great power and ability then and He possesses that power today. He came and the people saw His mighty works but the world hasn't seen anything yet. When He ascended back to Heaven, He left us with a promise that He is coming again. And things will be much different the next time He comes. Here's a few thoughts borrowed from a sermon by Pastor Jerry Shirley:

The first time He came as a lowly carpenter.

The next time He will come as a risen conqueror!

The first time He came riding on a donkey.

The next time He will be riding a white horse.

*The first time He was mocked and scorned.
The next time men will fear and tremble.
The first time He came weeping.
The next time He is coming with a shout!
The first time He came to redeem man.
The next time He will rule all of mankind.
The first time He had no money for taxes.
The next time He will own everything.
The first time He came alone.
The next time He is coming with Saints and Angels.
The first time He was mocked and scorned.
The next time His enemies will be under His feet.
The first time He had nails in His hands.
The next time He will possess a Rod of Iron.
The first time He hung on a cross.
The next time He will sit on a Throne.
The first time He was judged in Pilate's Hall.
The next time He will be the Judge.
The first time men put Him to death.
The next time He will destroy the enemies of God!
The first time He came as a Man.
The next time He will come as God.
The first time He came as the Lamb.
The next time He will be the Lion.
The first time He was meek and lowly.
The next time He will come in power and glory.
The first time He wore a Crown of Thorns.
The next time He will wear a Crown of Crowns.
The first time He was called King of the Jews.
The next time He will be King of Kings.
The first time He came as "a lowly Nazarene."
The next time He is coming as the "Lord of Lords."*

Conclusion:

"Rolling out the red carpet" refers to the carpets and rugs being used in India several centuries ago. Sometimes carpets provided the actual architecture; for example, when they were used in the construction of portable tent compounds for military campaigns or royal visits. The layout of the Mughal palace was re-created in these tent compounds using free-standing textile screens, and floral-covered carpets reproduced the gardens of the inner courtyards. The red color served to identify the emperor's tent, and luxurious textiles not only provided the comforts of home but also symbolically reminded envoys and visitors of the power and the wealth of their rulers.

Jahangir, Mughal emperor of India from 1605 to 1627, once paid a visit to his brother-in-law on New Year's Day. To celebrate the event, his brother-in-law carpeted the road between his house and the palace with gold brocades and rich velvets, so that the royal entourage would not have to touch the ground. Today we say "Roll out the red carpet" or "the red-carpet treatment" to indicate the conferring of honor and prestige."

All four of the Gospels tell of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as the "red carpet was rolled out" for Him (Mark 11.1-11; Luke 19.28-38; John 12.12-19).

Friends, Jesus will one day return in great power and glory. Are you ready? Jesus traveled that road to victory in order to redeem you.

This road began at Bethlehem. He was born and lived a sinless life. On this road He taught with authority, performed many miracles, changed many lives. He made this "Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem and was worshiped and praised by many. Many of the same people would turn on Him a few days later. He would face great agony in The Garden of Gethsemane. He would then be: Betrayed by Judas, Denied by Peter, Abandoned by His disciples, Seized and arrested by His enemies, falsely accused, tried and convicted. He would stand and hear the crowd cry "Crucify Him." He would then be scourged, beaten, stripped, mocked and crucified. After this they would place His body in a borrowed tomb.

But praise God He came out of that tomb three days later to live forever more. He was then seen by His disciples and many other witnesses. He would then ascend to Heaven to sit down at the right hand of the Father. And He did it all for our redemption.

There are two proper responses today for what Jesus did on "The Road to Redemption." If you are lost ... get saved. If you are saved ... praise His Holy Name!

Roll Out the Red Carpet!

Some Things to Ponder

It's such a great time of year. Spring has finally sprung. Easter is a week away. Hopefully April showers are coming since they are greatly needed to see lawns and fields make that annual change from brown to green. Within it all is the yearning to joyfully celebrate the life God has given us.

Passion Week has so much meaning for believers. Please do not overlook it. Go back and re-read the Gospel accounts of Jesus' last days on earth (Matthew 21-28, Mark 11-16, Luke 19:28-24:53, John 12-21). Take time to think about each writer's version of the story and what it means for us today. Let the Word of God speak to you.

And speaking of the Word of God, Ellen shared with me a devotion she read from one day this past week. It was based on Matthew 24:35. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away." That statement has proved to be eternally true. This is what the devotional said:

*Generations follow generations – yet it lives.
Nations rise and fall – yet it lives.
Kings, dictators, presidents come and go – yet it lives.
Torn, condemned, burned – yet it lives.
Hated, despised, cursed – yet it lives.
Doubted, suspected, criticized – yet it lives.
Damned by atheists – yet it lives.
Exaggerated by fanatics – yet it lives.
Misconstrued and misstated – yet it lives.
Ranted and raved about – yet it lives.
Its inspiration denied – yet it lives.
Yet it lives – as a lamp to our feet.
Yet it lives – as a light to our paths.
Yet it lives – as a standard for childhood.
Yet it lives – as a guide for youth.
Yet it lives – as an inspiration for the matured.
Yet it lives – as a comfort for the aged.
Yet it lives – as food for the hungry.
Yet it lives – as water for the thirsty.*

*Yet it lives – as rest for the weary.
Yet it lives – as light for the heathen.
Yet it lives – as salvation for the sinner.
Yet it lives – as grace for the Christian.
To know it is to love it.
To love it is to accept it.
To accept it means Life eternal.*

— Author Unknown.

Hope you're planning on attending Easter Breakfast. It's always a special time of church family fellowship, good food, and reflection on the meaning of the day. Then we'll have Bible Study and Easter Worship at regular times, which offer even more opportunities to celebrate a Living, Risen Lord. Hallelujah! He is Risen Indeed!

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Kirkpatrick, Bill Schottel, Larry McKahan

Alternate: Ken Nice

Diversicare.....2:30 pm

No Evening Services

Wednesday, March 28

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 29

Maundy Thursday6:30 pm

Sunday, April 1, 2018

Happy Easter!

Breakfast.....8:15 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Don Sharp, Fred Kerns

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

No Evening Services

Monday, April 2

Food Kitchen.....5:30 pm

Wednesday, April 4

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

March 25 — Palm Sunday

March 26 — Workers Meeting

March 29 — Maundy Thursday

March 30 — Good Friday

April 1 — Easter Sunday Sunrise Breakfast and Devotion 8:15 am

April 2 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

April 5 — Grand Oaks Board Meeting

April 7 — Keyboard Festival 8:30am—Noon

April 11 — Prayer Warriors 10 am

April 12 — VBS Workers Clinic FBC Saint Joseph 6:30pm-9pm

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Night

We will not have Sunday night services tonight. We will resume Sunday night services on April 8.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Come pray for the direction of our church. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm and enjoy a time of fellowship and Bible Study.

EASTER

Next Sunday, April 1, is Easter. Our Easter morning schedule will be as follows:

Breakfast 8:15 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship...10:30 am

No Evening Worship

Food Kitchen

We will serve Monday, April 2, at 5:30 pm. Please feel free to join us as we show the love of Christ and minister to those in need.

Keyboard Festival

*April 7
Calvary Baptist Church
8:30 am—Noon*

Vacation Bible School Workers Clinic

*April 12, 2018
6:30—9:00 pm
First Baptist Church
1225 Francis, Street
Saint Joseph, MO*

All church VBS Directors, teachers and workers are encouraged to attend this training.

For the Record-

Attendance: March 18, 2018

Sunday School.....	28
Visitors.....	4
Total.....	32
Contacts Made.....	8
Morning Worship.....	44
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Wednesday Night	10

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 815.92
Annie Armstrong.....	\$ 965.00
Long Family-February...\$	165.00

Offering Received by Mail:

Eric and Shelly Thompson

April Counting Team:

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

April Van Driver:

Mike Green
Remember to call 232-3747

before 8 am if you need a ride.

April Member Birthdays:

05... Datha Dillon
13... Alice Coats
15... Larry McKahan
25... Jo Mayse
30... Nikki Garber

April Anniversaries

Joe and Pam Battreal
April 17, 1999
Bill and Juanita Haskins
April 17, 1948
Joseph and Alice Coats
April 29, 2000

Prayer Requests ...

Larry McKahan—upcoming surgery
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Joyce Cook—health
Jack and Flo Conard
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Arlette Duty—strength
Gina Harr—strength
Don Beavers—heart and health
Curtis Conard—recovery
Emily Jones & baby Liam
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
The Waters Family—guidance
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—recovery
Larry Danner—cancer
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Rev. A. B. Brown Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Ellen Blanton Lois Ulmer
Jim Winans Nellie Reynolds
Madeline Swink Ann Riddle
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Judy Anderson
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Tim Izer
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace

Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
