

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

April 18, 2011

Rising to the Occasion

Yesterday we celebrated what is known as Palm Sunday. On this day Jesus' made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. By doing this, Jesus presents Himself officially to the nation as the Messiah and Son of God. The people shouted "Hosanna", which means, "Give Salvation Now." The supply of date palms were plentiful and they still grow in Jerusalem today. From about two centuries earlier, the waving of palm branches had become a national, if not a nationalistic, symbol, which signaled the fervent hope that a Messianic liberator was arriving on the scene. The disciples thought that the Messiah had come to reestablish Israel's power in the world. The disciples weren't the only ones who had misconceptions about the Messiah. Many Jews of the day expected Him to be an earthly king. When the crowds heard Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they cheered, "Hosanna!" which means, "Save now!" They saw Him as their new King, come to bring salvation from political and societal oppression. He raised the dead—no doubt he could also restore the kingdom of David and free them from Roman rule, but God had something else in mind.

The people cheered with victory only to say later, "Crucify Him," shortly afterward. How quickly we forget what He has done for us. How quickly we forget purpose. And Jesus said to the disciples in **John 16:16 NASB – (16)** "A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again in a little while, and you will see Me." You know the story afterwards. He was put on the cross. Died, buried and resurrected. Despite our incorrect thinking, our selfish motives, He still died, was buried and resurrected!

Jesus died and arose to the occasion that you and I may live by "grace" and receive eternal life. Next Sunday, what is called Easter, but better known as "Resurrection Sunday", know the real meaning of the season. Celebrate the season with victory because where would we be if He had not died for us? Know that Jesus is not dead and even today He is still rising to the occasion for you and me. Know that because He got up, you will get up! Know your purpose in this thing called life and celebrated it the Godly way.

SCRIPTURE READING

MATT. 20:1-8, MARK 16:1-8, LUKE 24:1-12 & JOHN 20:1-10

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus, just the reason to celebrate the season!

