

## Victory of the Lamb – Palm Sunday 2019 – Pastor Bill Limmer

### Luke 19:28-40 “ \_\_\_\_\_ Means The World to Me”

Just for fun let's say that team with the best record in the NBA actually wins the NBA title, what that would mean is that your team, the Milwaukee Bucks would win the championship. If there was a parade downtown for the Bucks would you go? Would you line the streets? Let's say as the team parades by the Fiserv Forum you go and you are right there, right in front of the beautiful new arena and you are in the front row. What would be your posture? Your energy level? Your voice?

As we go back into history to open up His story so that we can connect it to our story Jesus is coming right down the middle of Worship Avenue into downtown Jerusalem. Luke 19:35-38 **They. . . threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.** <sup>36</sup> **As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.** <sup>37</sup> **When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:** <sup>38</sup> **“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”**<sup>[a]</sup> **“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”** The people came intentionally to see Jesus. So part of their worship was that they wanted to see their object of their affection/their worship. Namely, they wanted to see Jesus. Did you come to worship because it is the thing to do or because you had to? Who did you come expecting to see? Did you come here this morning expecting to see the music team, our new pastor, or did you come expecting to see Jesus?

Part of the people's worship was they knew they needed Jesus. They maybe couldn't fully put their finger on it but there was something missing in their lives. Some felt empty, others unsettled, anxious, unfulfilled, hopeless, unsure, defensive. In other words, they had holes in their hearts, they were spiritually hungry. When we have physical hunger we satisfy that hunger with physical food. When people try to satisfy spiritual hunger with physical things that's when addictions happen, whether it is a substance addiction, an eating addiction, sex addiction, a hobby addiction? Know anyone like that? They and we need Jesus to fill that hole.

On that day part of their worship was expressing joy in their actions and their voices. The word for worship used here has the idea of an exuberant celebration, boasting and raving. They were smiling from ear to ear. Joy filled their heart. They were boasting about Jesus. Jesus there is no one like you! Apart from you there is no God, no Savior. There is no one like you! I need you. I want you. You are the best. They were sure and demonstrative in their devotion to Jesus. They were singular in focus.

Part of their worship took the form of humbling themselves as they took off coats and placed them on the ground to make the red-carpet runway for Jesus even though Jesus himself was going to be walking on them but a donkey. So many of the crowd gathered there, gave their time, their talent, their treasures, their heart, their all.

Just curious, who would you be willing to give your all for? Who or what means the world to you? A spouse? A child? A grandchild? A pet? An experience? For many of us those things are super special but you know when push comes to shove, sooner or later, it is going to get narrowed down to one. As Jacky has shared with me many times: When you say yes to something or someone you are saying no to something or someone else. Who or what is number one in your life?

Let me give you an example and note that part of the background of the parade is this account from John 12:3 **Then Mary took about a pint<sup>l</sup> of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.** To summarize there is this big celebration going on for Jesus and Mary takes a pint of perfume, we are not talking about old spice, we aren't talking about Polo, Calvin Klein, Chanel, not even Dolce Gabanna we are talking a perfume that goes for over 3K an ounce. She has like 50K of perfume and she pours it all on to Jesus because as the commercial says, "He is worth it."

For Mary Jesus wasn't just a teaching, he was a personal relationship. A couple of verses I didn't read to you are these: **Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint<sup>l</sup> of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.** For Mary it was personal relationship with Jesus because Jesus raised her brother from death to life. Because of Jesus she knew that one day it would mean for her death to life.

What is Jesus worth to you? Do we get distracted in our worship of God because our heart is an idol factory making idols of various people and a multitude of things.? Are we using the gifts God has given to us to worship him boldly, joyfully, or are we holding back, I'm more reserve than that? What if someone came to you right now, and handed 50K to you, what would you do with it? How much would you give to Jesus? Would you be all in and just give it all to Jesus like Mary did. Or would you want to just spritz a few dollars Jesus way because at 3K an ounce spritz are pretty valuable. Let me just insert these words from Jesus (Matthew 10): **Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.** How is this compare to what is going on in your heart and mine? You know I wish I could stand up here and say, If I were given 50K out of the clear blue or if I earned and saved it up, I would give it all to Jesus. But I know my heart and I know it is not true. I wish I could guarantee you that I would give more than a few spritz's to Jesus, I wish I could tell you that I am extravagant and generous to Jesus and so I use all my palm branches and coats - that is all my gifts, time and talent to worship God all of the time but I don't. There are times, by God's grace, that I really really want to, and that grace of God budes me closer to doing so. But there are also times that when I know that truth that I am the most selfish person I know, not even close. I hang my head in shame because I know that Jesus is to mean everything in the world to me. You too?

So, about a week later from the Mary perfume bath account and just a handful of days after the Palm Sunday praise parade, Jesus was covered not in perfume but in blood. Surrounding Jesus was not the aroma of elegance but of death. About a week later the shouts of praise turned to shouts of crucify him. And so about a week later Jesus was not praised but crucified. And it is here, about a week later the story gets really, really personal for you and me – no matter who you are, whether you have ever worship God before today and whether your worship has been a bit up and down and sometimes cheap, about a week later Jesus would die on the cross for you, for me. About a week later this is what happened (Ephesians 5:2): **Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.** About a week later by his words and actions Jesus would say and demonstrate to you and to me: YOU MEAN THE WORLD TO ME. And Jesus gave not palm branches, or perfume, but the most extravagant gift. He gave His all, his life in the face of death. So we could go from death to life.

What do we give in response to Jesus being all in for us? Worshiping Jesus is the only appropriate response to the gift Jesus has given to every single one of us. Worship is living our lives so that they are always mindful of Jesus meaning the whole world to us. And that has a trickle-down effect on how we schedule our time, how we use our finances, how we raise our kids, what we go after, what we care about, what we are passionate about. When you use your life to worship it changes what you do and how you think. And there will be objections, Palm Sunday turned to Good Friday, Mary was told her offering was a waste. There will be objections as long as we live in a sinful world. But you just tell them to get lost and stay at Jesus feet. There is another Hebrew word for worship. And it means to bow down – to bow down live for him not for them because it gets personal for you. Jesus has changed your life and your eternity. Live to please him not them.

Worship has many facets: Worship for me sometimes means, a heartfelt song, it is just me and it is just in my mind and heart because I can't carry a tune in a bucket. Sometimes worship for me singing out loud (Usually that is on a run or in the shower – meaning away from people because of that whole tune thing), sometimes worship for me is being so touched that I cry, sometimes worship for me means the weight of the world being lifted off of my shoulders because God's grace has forgiven me, sometimes for me worship is being blown away by God's love for me, sometimes for me worship means sharing the love of Jesus, sometimes worship for me crying out that I hate temptation, sometimes worship for means giving an offering with excitement to see how God is going to use this gift to grow his kingdom, sometimes worship means serving others, sometimes worship means me demanding God do what he says he is going to do, for me this is often in prayer. And of course, there is more and different ways. Here is the key: John 4:24 **“worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”** So how will you show that Jesus means the world to you? Whatever that is, whatever that looks like, sounds like - May God guide and bless you to live that way.