

3A. ESSAY: IN ORDER FOR THE ADMISSIONS STAFF OF OUR COLLEGE TO GET TO KNOW YOU, THE APPLICANT, BETTER, WE ASK THAT YOU ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

ARE THERE ANY SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCES YOU HAVE HAD, OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOU HAVE REALIZED, THAT HAVE HELPED TO DEFINE YOU AS A PERSON?

Have accolades or the chase for recognition began to eclipse the simplicity of our faith walk?

Has a desire for earthly esteem quietly nudged aside our commitment to walk in Jesus' footsteps of humility?

A decorative graphic of two palm fronds, one above and one below the text, with a light green to yellowish gradient. The fronds are positioned behind the text, creating a layered effect.

Palm Sunday

**What's our expectations of
Jesus this Palm Sunday?**

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Jesus this Palm Sunday?**

**What kind of king are you
looking for?**

Palm Sunday invites us to consider a different kind of King—a King whose purpose goes beyond our immediate desires and circumstances.



Nehemiah, drawing from the deep well of God's Word, renews a sense of joy and purpose among the people. They were not just rebuilding walls; they were being rebuilt by the Word of God, coming alive in their hearts.

Matthew 21

Mark 11

Luke 19

John 12

“on the way to Jerusalem”

Mark 10:32

Mark's purpose:

“The beginning of the **good news** of Jesus Christ, the **Son of God.**” (1:1).

**To follow Jesus is to journey
with Him on the path that
goes to Jerusalem—a place
where the story of death is
interwoven with the promise
of resurrection.**

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.

If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?”

They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields.

**Those who went ahead and
those who followed shouted,**

“Hosanna!”

**“Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord!”**

**“Blessed is the coming kingdom
of our father David!”**

**“Hosanna in the highest
heaven!”**

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Mark 11:1-11

“Hosanna”
God saves

In this moment, we see a
King who came to address
our most profound need:
salvation from **sin**.



In the kingdom of God, **every**
person, every act of
obedience, no matter how
seemingly small or mundane,
is infused with significance.

They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law.

They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.”

Mark 10:33-34

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.”

“What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.”

“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

“We can,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.”

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become **great** among you must be your **servant**, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give** his **life** as a **ransom** for many.”

Mark 10:35-45



“To sit on the Lord’s ‘right’ and ‘left’ (10:37) referred to the respective ranks of second and third in command of the coming kingdom. While Jesus prepared Himself for rejection, humiliation, suffering, torture, and death, His closest companions jockeyed for positions of power in His imminent administration as king of Israel.

The ‘glory’ they imagined had Jesus being feted with a ticker-tape parade and wearing purple and gold. The disciples hadn’t heard anything He said, so they didn’t have a clue about the future they faced.”

Chuck Swindoll

“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened and you will be **like God**, knowing good and evil.”

Genesis 3:5

As Jesus ends conversation about his impending death and as he's preparing for rejection, humiliation, suffering, and death, his closest followers are jockeying for positions of power.

“It may amaze us that the disciples could be so slow to grasp what it was all about. Jesus’ teaching in these verses shows discipleship as a self-denying, self-risking, self-giving part of lowly service for the redemption of the world.”

Donald English

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have **mercy** on me!”

Many rebuked him and told him to be **quiet**, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” Throwing his cloak aside, he **jumped** to his feet and **came** to Jesus.

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, **“Rabbi, I want to see.”**

“Go,” said Jesus, **“your faith has healed you.”** Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Bartimaeus' immediate response to Jesus' call reflects a profound faith, showing us that when Jesus beckons, we are to step forward, even if our vision of the future is not fully clear.

**What do you want me
to do for you?**

“Go, your **faith has
healed you.”**

**Jesus meets our deepest need,
not our ego need.**

**Within all the busyness, crowds,
and hoopla of the Passover -
Jesus still has his eyes on the
broken. He still exudes grace
and mercy.**

**Will we receive it?
Will we choose to extend it?**

**Will we – this Palm Sunday –
openly and honestly reveal the
darkness of sin and confront the
truth about ourselves in each of
us and humbly submit our heart
to the King?**

Could it be, church, the folks whom we think least deserve faith, or the folks we may think are furthest away from it, are the ones whom God is drawing?

**Bartimaeus' name?
Son of honor.**

**Jesus exalts Bartimaeus to a
status he's never known.**

Paradox of Palm Sunday:



strength in submission
honor in humility
freedom in following
salvation by surrendering