

Submitting Our Lives to the Lord

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As the Lord rode into Jerusalem, there was a great crowd to greet Him. There were more crowds of people following Him. One of the things these people did was to cut down branches off the trees and lay them in His way on the road, so that He would ride over them.

Then they took off their clothes—their cloaks and their coats—and put them on the road. The disciples took off their cloaks and put them on the donkey for the Lord to sit on. Then the Lord rode into Jerusalem. And the crowds of people sang and shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” There was great joy. And the reason was that in ancient times, when a king rode to his coronation, to receive his crown, he used to ride on a donkey or the colt of a donkey. So when the Lord rode into Jerusalem, He was, in the eyes of all the people, declaring Himself the King.

In the Old Testament, hundreds and hundreds of years before, it had been prophesied that a Messiah would come. Messiah means king or ruler. So the people were waiting for the coming of the Messiah. They thought that when the very powerful and very wise Messiah came, He would rule over them and would make them a great nation. He would conquer all enemies and make them the most powerful nation of all. So when the Lord rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, He was proclaiming Himself the King. There was great rejoicing, for the people thought that at last the Messiah had come. They thought, “Now we can be free from the Romans. Now we will be led to greatness.”

But among the people were also those who were simple, good, and sincere. They took off their clothes and cut palm branches off the trees and spread them in the road. This was a sign that they were willing to have the Lord rule over them and be their King. And, this is something which is important for all of us to do in our hearts, because the Lord is our Heavenly Father. He is King of heaven, King of the universe, King of all the earth. We should be willing to let the Lord rule over us and be our King. Cutting down palm branches and taking off cloaks and putting them on the road were signs that the people were submitting themselves to the King.

It's very important to let the Lord rule over us. We don't have to take off our clothes and lay them in His path or cut down palm branches. But we do have to submit our lives to Him. We have to be humble in our minds and in our hearts to the Lord—specifically, to the teachings of His Word. Sometimes things we read in the Word seem a little hard, the Lord tells us things that we ought to do, which we would rather not do. And when we hear these things we feel resistance. We don't want to do what the Word says. But what we have to do is fight against this feeling and say to ourselves, “The Lord says I ought to do this. It is good and right, or He would not tell me to do it. And since He tells me to do it, I should be willing to submit to it.” We have to *spiritually* take off our clothes and put them down so the Lord can pass over.

If the Lord is going to rule us, we have to be humble. This means we should be willing to obey His Commandments. No matter what the Commandments are, or how rebellious we may feel, we

must be willing to submit to them, and say that the Lord is our King. He rules over all, and He rules over us. He should rule over our lives, over our affections and over our thoughts.

This is what was symbolized on Palm Sunday. The great throngs sang and shouted and took off their outer garments and cut palm branches and put them on the road. These were signs of their willingness to be ruled over by this King.

It is very fitting that from year to year we think to ourselves, “We should be like that throng of people. Spiritually, we should submit our lives to the rule of the King of heaven. We should rejoice that He has declared Himself our Ruler.” As we celebrate the Lord’s resurrection, we can strive to understand the real meaning of the stories of Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. And the more we learn, the more we can see the mercy and love of the Lord in His coming to earth to save us.