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Hosanna to Hallelujah!

The events which took place from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday have lots to teach us on WORSHIP.

SUNDAY

1. **“Hosanna in the Highest!”** (Mt 21:9)

- Jesus Himself initiated the triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Mt 21:1-3).

It's always God who inspires us to worship Him —

Psa 51:15 ... *Open my lips ... Your praise ...*

1 Cor 12:3b ... *Jesus is Lord ... (help of the) Holy Spirit*

But we do not add anything to Him by worship (Acts 17:25)

Worship is an opportunity for us to fellowship with God.

Every revelation from God is a call to worship —

Zech 9:9 vs. Mt 21:5a

Psa 138:2 ... *Worship ... because ... Word ...*

- Children not to be despised in worshipping God
Mt 21:15,16; Psa 8:2 ... *babes ... infants ... praise ...*
Children to be encouraged to freely sing aloud.
This will make our worship more fragrant
and less formal.
- John alone mentions “*palm branches*” —
Jn 12:12,13

Compare with Rev 7:9,10

Worshipping God as a celebration gives us a foretaste of Heaven on earth!

MONDAY

2. **“Unless a grain of wheat dies ...”** (Jn 12:24)

- Greeks who had come to **worship** (Jn 12:20)

They came to “admire” Jesus;

but He wanted them to “adore” Him —

v23 ... *Son of man to be glorified*

Glorification through death only (v24)

That's why Paul said (1 Cor 1:22,23),

“Greeks ... wisdom ... but we ... Christ crucified”

- Then Jesus goes on to teach “self-denial” (Jn 12:25)

True worship is realizing our unworthiness and God's supreme worth.

Acceptable worship is following God whatever the cost.

For Abraham, “worship” meant readiness to offer his son as a burnt offering (Gen 22:2,5)

- While speaking these words of self-denial and death, Jesus confessed his soul agony —

Jn 12:27 ... *“My soul is troubled”*

Instead of giving place to worry,

He went on to worship —

“Father, glorify Your Name!” (v28)

Praise God even when you may not feel like praising Him in agonizing moments.

The “*Baca*” (=weeping) will become “*Berachah*” (=blessing) —

Psa 84:6; 2 Chr 20:26

TUESDAY

3. “She gave all she had!” (Mk 12:44)

- Giving our substance to God is a practical expression of worship.

Jesus purposely sat near the treasury to watch how people put money into it (v41).

Not how much we give, but how much we keep back, is what God is concerned about.

- Macedonian Christians:

2 Cor 8:2 ... *poverty ... liberality*

“They gave themselves to the Lord” (v5)

— Pure worship!

Such giving causes more and more “*thanksgiving*” to God (2 Cor 9:11,12)

TUESDAY

4. “Why this waste?” (Mt 26:8)

- Mary’s costly oil poured on Jesus
(Mt 26:6-13; Mk 14:3-9; Jn 11:2)

What appeared as “waste” for the guests in Simon’s house was applauded as “worship” by the Chief Guest!

- Never delay whatever you desire to do for God.
Mary came “*beforehand*” to anoint Jesus’ body —
Mk 14:8
Others were late (Lk 24:1-3)

Mary found a place in God’s Hall of Fame among worldwide evangelists (Mt 26:13).

THURSDAY

5. “Do this in remembrance of Me!” (Lk 22:19)

See also Mt 26:26-29; Mk 14:22-25; 1 Cor 11:23-34

We celebrate the praises of God
at least in 3 ways in the Holy Communion —

- We praise the Lord for His vicarious death
1 Cor 11:24-26
He bore our sins and sicknesses on His body
Isa 53:4,5; 1 Pet 2:24
He shed His blood to draw us near to God
Eph 2:13; Heb 10:19,20
He established a New Covenant with us
Heb 8:10-12 ... *remember sins no more*
- We thank the Lord for His Body the Church
1 Cor 11:29 ... *discerning the Lord’s Body*
We are to “*consider*” one another (vv33,34)
The Lord’s Supper is a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb of God
Rev 19:9; Mt 26:29
- We worship the Lord as the Soon-coming King
1 Cor 11:26b ... *till He comes ...*
The Lord’s Table ... Victory over enemies
Thus in the Lord’s Supper,
we worship Christ as —
the Lamb of God
the Lord of the Church
the Lord of the Nations

FRIDAY

6. “Father, into Your hands ...” (Lk 23:46)

- The fulfilment of what Jesus said in His farewell address when He left Heaven for earth —

Heb 10:5-7 ... Sacrifice ... a Body ...

- We are to offer our bodies —

Rom 12:1 ... a living sacrifice

The crowning lesson of Christ’s death (Eph 5:1,2)

We must constantly *reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive to God* — *Rom 6:11*

Then every day will be good —

Good Sunday ... Good Monday ... Good Friday ...

SUNDAY

7. Hallelujah! “He is risen!” (Mt 28:6)

Thro’ Resurrection Jesus is made

“Lord” and “Christ” (Acts 2:36)

What a glorious theme for worship!

— Expressions of Adoration

Mt 28:9 ... held Him by feet ... worshipped Him

— Expressions of Affection

Jn 20:15-17 ... Rabboni ... cling to Him ...

— Expressions of Amazement

Jn 20:27,28 ... Thomas ... My Lord, My God!

Resurrection makes our heart rejoice and our tongues glad (Acts 2:24-28)

He is Lord, He is Lord;

He is risen from the dead, and He is Lord;

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess,

That Jesus Christ is Lord!