

# REMEMBER JESUS AND THE CROSS

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Today is Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry riding on a colt into the town of Jerusalem. A large crowd gathered and laid palm branches and their cloaks across the road, giving Jesus the royal treatment. Hundreds of people shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna to the heaven!" (Matt. 21:9). Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

Holy Week, as we know, is being celebrated yearly not only in the Philippines but around the world. Some would describe it as a solemn occasion, while others look at it as more of a tradition. For some, Holy Week is a time of rest, a time for family, or a quick break during the Easter holiday that comes with it. But no matter where you are or who you are with, let us not forget that Holy Week is about Jesus. And so, we must remember Jesus and the cross.

This week, let us take time to gratefully remember what Christ has done for us on the cross. Let us remember and recognize that Jesus came to save us from the penalty of our sins and its power over our lives. He laid his life down for us as a good shepherd to His sheep (John 10:11),

demonstrated the greatest act of love and reconciled us back to God (Rom. 5:8-10). He redeemed us with His precious blood that we might die to sin and live a life of righteousness, one that is pleasing and glorifying before God (1 Pet. 1:18-19; 2:24).

While these are not new to us, the reality is we tend to forget and, at times, struggle to remember the importance and value of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. This is the reason why Paul in 2 Timothy 2:8-10 encourages Timothy to remember Jesus Christ and to choose to live for Him always.

You and I desperately need to daily remember - to recollect, think, consider, retain, bring to mind who Christ is and what He has done for us. Remember who you are in Christ, and what Christ has left you here for, what He delivered you from and where you are headed forever.

As Christians, we are to remember Jesus and the cross not only this Holy Week but every single day. As we start our day, as we do our chores at home, school, or work, as we have conversations with others, we must be intentional to include and remember Jesus in all those things and to live a life that is

worthy of His Gospel. We are to respond to Jesus and His finished work at the cross.

As we celebrate this Lenten Season, may we not miss out on the opportunity to look back and reflect on who Jesus is and where we are in terms of our relationship and fellowship with Him. Let us take time to intentionally reflect on:

- Who is Jesus to me?
- Who am I in Christ?
- How has the Lord been growing and teaching me?
- How am I responding to Him?
- Is Christ being reflected in the manner that I live my life?

As we quiet our hearts, I pray that the Lord will minister to us individually and allow us to see and sense His abiding presence. I pray that our hearts will be filled with joy and gladness as we are reminded of the great work of Jesus in our lives and that this will give us the burden to share Jesus to others as well.

May His work and words continue to change and transform us as we remember Jesus and the cross.

Enjoy this Lenten season! Enjoy Jesus! ✠