

Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord (Psalm 62:1-12 & John 12:12-19)

24-Mar-2024

Psalm 62:1-12

For the director of music. For Jeduthun. A psalm of David.

- ¹ Truly my soul finds rest in God;
my salvation comes from him.
- ² Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.
- ³ How long will you assault me?
Would all of you throw me down—
this leaning wall, this tottering fence?
- ⁴ Surely, they intend to topple me
from my lofty place;
they take delight in lies.
With their mouths they bless,
but in their hearts they curse.
- ⁵ Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.
- ⁶ Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.
- ⁷ My salvation and my honour depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.
- ⁸ Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge.
- ⁹ Surely the lowborn are but a breath,
the highborn are but a lie.
If weighed on a balance, they are nothing;
together they are only a breath.
- ¹⁰ Do not trust in extortion
or put vain hope in stolen goods;

though your riches increase,
do not set your heart on them.

¹¹ One thing God has spoken,
two things I have heard:

“Power belongs to you, God,

¹² and with you, Lord, is unfailing love”;
and, “You reward everyone
according to what they have done.”

John 12:12-19

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

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

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;
see, your king is coming,
seated on a donkey’s colt.”

¹⁶ At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

Sermon: Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord

Please have your Bibles opened at our Old Testament (OT) reading from **Psalm 62** - initially – then we'll look at the New Testament (NT) reading **from John 12:12-19**.

There is an **outline** if you would like to take down some notes!

Let me **pray** first...

Intro (Enemies?)

Slide 1A-enemies?

What **enemies** do you have?

Maybe there's people in your life – **who've turned their back on you** – and they've **said terrible things** about you – or **done terrible things** to you?

Or maybe there's people in your life – who don't like the fact that you're a **Christian** – and they **disapprove of you** – and they're **out to get you!**

Or maybe – you don't have **any enemies?**

(pause)

Slide 2B-Romans 5:12

However, the Bible says that **we ALL have spiritual enemies**...

Romans 5:12 says: ***Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people, because all sinned.***

So, because of Adam and Eve's original sin – we inherit the spiritual enemy of sin – which leads to spiritual death – a **broken relationship with God** – and also leads to physical death one day!

And if that's not enough

Slide 1C-1 Peter 5:8

The Bible also says we have another spiritual enemy

1 Peter 5:8 says: *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

So, the devil prowls around – telling us lies – tempting us – tricking us to go away from God's rules!

More about that later...

David's Enemies (Psalm 62:3, 4, 9, 10)

In our Old Testament reading from **Psalm 62** – set around **1000 BC**

King David talks about his enemies.

Slide 2-David's enemies

Throughout his life – David had several enemies: The **Philistines** and the Giant Philistine, **Goliath**; the previous King, **King Saul**; **other nations** surrounding Israel; even his own son **Absalom** who rebelled against him; and also, **internal strife** in his household!

In this Psalm – in verse 3

David felt so vulnerable – he felt like *a leaning wall or tottering fence* – he was so weak – he felt he **could easily be pushed over**.

Perhaps – we've felt like that in our lives at times?

Verse 4 – David says **people are ready to knock him off his throne** – they even tell lies about him – and they are **two-faced** – *they bless him with their words – but in their hearts they curse him* and **plot to overthrow him**.

Perhaps – we’ve felt like that in our lives – where **people are two-faced with us** – and **talk about us behind our backs**?

Or maybe – we’ve been guilty of being two-faced – and we’re squirming in our seats right now?

David goes on to say in verse 9 – **people can’t be trusted** – it doesn’t matter if they were born into a poor family or a rich family – he says **people are like “a breath”**.

A breath has **no substance** – nothing to hold on to – what David is saying is – **people’s lives are fleeting and short-lived** – even their status in the world soon passes.

So why would we **rely on other human beings**?

We only have to recall how many kings Israel had –and to see their **reigns and status were short-lived**? And what about empires like **Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Rome**; where are they now?

And David says in v10 – some people even put their trust in their wealth – and sometimes they’ve got that wealth by extortion or stealing – and they think that’s **something to be proud of and trust in**.

But David says even if we are rich and wealthy – we’re not to put our heart in to our wealth. It can soon disappear as quick as it came.

Jesus taught something similar in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:19-21 – when he **warned people *not to build up treasures on Earth but build up treasures***

in Heaven. In other words – **be rich towards God** – investing our time – in **progressing God’s Kingdom by telling people about Jesus** – instead of investing all our time in **getting rich**.

So, the bottom line for **David** is – he **has many enemies** – and he can’t trust people because they lie and cheat or they are self-centred and selfish!

The Solution to David’s Enemies (Psalm 62:1-2, 5-8, 11-12)

Slide 3 - Solution

The solution to **David’s problem** with his enemies -is **NOT** to get help from other human beings!

Look at verse 1 – David’s *soul* (or his inner being) *finds rest* (or finds silent rest in waiting on) *God alone!*

It’s a bit like what Psalm 46:11 says: “*Be still and I know that I am God!*”

It’s God alone who will save David.

Because - as David says in verse 2

God is like a **rock** – in other words – **God** is **immovable** and **permanent** [like Uluru – we’re not going to move that around any time soon!] – and God is a **strong foundation** we can build our lives on!

And David says – **God** is like a **fortress** – in other words – **God’s is the One who we run to** – when we’re **afraid** – when we need **safety and protection!**

David is so adamant that **God is the solution to his enemies**

He repeats the same thing **in verses 5 and 6!**

As David says – with great confidence - at the end of v2 and the end of v6 – “*I will not be shaken*” or “*I will not be moved*”

There are a few hymns based on Psalm 62: Rock of Ages; Jesus, lover of my Soul – and this one “*I shall not be moved*”

The chorus goes:

I shall not, I shall not be moved.

I shall not, I shall not be moved,

just like a tree that's planted by the water

I shall not be moved.

V1 – When my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved!

V2 -The Church of God is marching; I shall not be moved!

V3 – Jesus is my captain; I shall not be moved!

V4 – Fighting sin and Satan, I shall not be moved!

Back to David

He’s so confident in God’s protection – that he says in verse 7 – his *salvation and honour depend on God alone*!

And so, he encourages himself and his readers – including us – in verse 8 – to *trust in God at all times* – and *pour out our hearts to God* – because God is our true source of help and refuge.

In other words – **we need to go to the throne – for help – not to the phone**!

(pause)

That’s why David can **conclude** in verses 11 and 12

Ultimate power belongs to God alone – not human beings!

And – *God's love never fails* – unlike human love!

(pause)

Israel's Enemy (John 12:12-13)

Slide 4 – Israel's enemy

We fast-forward 1000 years from David's time – to our New Testament Reading – from John 12 – and that **very first Palm Sunday!**

It's around about **30AD**

The **context** is – **Jesus has spent 3 years in His ministry**. He performed amazing **miracles; healed people; taught amazing things and said things that only God could say or know**; he's **stood up to the arrogant self-righteous religious leaders** and he's not **fazed by the Romans** occupying Israel.

The people have begun to see Jesus – as the **promised Messiah King** – promised in the Old Testament. **Jesus** has even recently (chapter 11) **raised his friend Lazarus – from the dead** – even though Lazarus had been dead for 4 days!

The people have begun to see Jesus – is like the great King of Israel – King David – and they see **Jesus could be the answer to their enemy** – The **Romans** – who have occupied Israel since 63BC

So, as we pick up our story from John 12:12-19 [*Please turn there now*] – the **people in Jerusalem are in a frenzy**

Jerusalem is packed to the rafters – people have come to Jerusalem for the annual **Passover festival** – and there's **extra people and extra interest** – because Jesus has performed His **latest miracle**

The people are so excited – as King Jesus enters the city – He’s the King they want!
 Jesus **only has to give them the nod** – and they’ll start a **revolution** now!

Look at v13

The people wave palm branches and greet Jesus

They shout out to Jesus

“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel”

The people are **quoting from** a praise (Hallel) Psalm in the OT – **Psalm 118**.

As far as the people are concerned **Jesus is the solution to their Roman problem!**

Something similar happened in 160BC – when **Judas Maccabeus along with his brothers** drove out the Seleucid’s Greek dynasty ruling Syria and invading Jerusalem. **Judas Maccabeus was the first person to use Guerilla war-fare** – and managed to kick out the invading Greek armies along with his brothers Jonathan and Simon. **Judas died** and was a **national hero** – and people waved palms as his brother Simon Maccabeus - rode into Jerusalem victorious!

From that time, **palms were used on happy occasions** – like this!

The people used the word – Hosanna – as Jesus rode in.

Hosanna – means *“Save us now! Save us now!”*

They think **Jesus will save them from the Romans**

Solution to Israel’s Enemy (John 12:14-16)

Slide 5 – Solution to Israel’s Enemy

But the **Romans** are **NOT the enemy** that Jesus came to get rid of and save the people from!

Jesus' next move in verse 14 – **proves it.**

Jesus doesn't come riding in on a **war-horse** or **stallion** or in a **chariot**

No, he grabs a **donkey** and rides into Jerusalem on it!

Why a **donkey**?

- A **donkey** is a symbol of **peace** – not **war**! Jesus came to bring peace **between God and human beings**
- A **donkey** is a symbol of **humility** – Jesus is a **humble servant-like King** – he came to serve not to be served - [[even washing his disciples' feet in chapter 13](#)] – and Jesus came to lay down His life for the people – something a human king would rarely do – if at all!
- A **donkey** is a symbol of **royalty** – Jesus is a King alright – but **His Kingdom is not of this world** – He is a **Heavenly King**
- And of course – it has to be a **donkey** – to fulfil an OT prophecy from **Zechariah 9:9-10** [from 520BC] – where the prophet says – **Israel's King will come into Zion (Jerusalem) on donkey**
- And the **donkey** is a young donkey – that's **never been ridden** – and would be **frisky** and **hard to ride** – but no problem for Jesus – who has the power of God!

All of this shows that Jesus came with a **different mission** to the one the people thought.

The **real enemy** is not the **Romans** – but the **enemies** we mentioned at the start – the **enemies of sin and death** – the broken relationship between God and human beings – and the **enemy of the devil!** That's the enemy Jesus came to defeat!

But – look at verse 16 – the **disciples didn't understand that yet?**

They didn't get it – verse 16 says – until Jesus was **glorified!**

What does it mean by Jesus being **glorified**?

Well, if we skip down to verses 23-24 of John 12 – it tells us:

*Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man [Jesus] to be **glorified**. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*

So, Jesus being **glorified** is the fact that **He must die** [like that kernel of wheat going in the ground and dying]– so that **He can take the sins of the world upon Himself and offer forgiveness** – and then **He must rise again** [to produce many seeds] – **to give eternal life to all who believe.**

In Jesus' death and resurrection – He not only **brings glory to Himself** – but He **brings glory to God the Father** – because **Jesus does the Father's will** and accomplishes the Father's plan – The Father's plan was that - Jesus would get rid of the spiritual enemies of SIN and DEATH – and defeat the Devil!

[We'll talk more about Jesus' glorification – in His death and resurrection – on Good Friday and Easter Sunday – but for now – let's just reflect that Jesus rode

into Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday – KNOWING HE WAS RIDING TO HIS DEATH]

Jesus' glorification doesn't stop with His death and resurrection though. After His resurrection – He **gloriously ascended into Heaven** – and He **gloriously sent the Holy Spirit** – to live inside Christians and help them to live a life that pleases God. And it was only after all that happened that **Jesus' disciples finally realized and understood** – what Jesus' real mission is – and who the real enemy is!

Our Response (John 12:17-19) and Challenge (John 13:14-17)

How should we **respond** to that first Palm Sunday

Slide 6 – Response heading

Well – if we look at the **responses in our passage**

We see in v17 – the people who saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead – continued to **spread the word about Jesus** – which in turn caused many people – in verse 18 – **to go out to meet Jesus**

Whereas the religious leaders – the **Pharisees** – didn't see that they needed Jesus to save them from anything – and had made up their mind to **reject Jesus** - and are even **plotting to kill Jesus** (earlier in chapter 12) – and they are getting frustrated because Jesus is gaining more followers and popularity – not less!

The Pharisees **ironically say** in verse 19: “***look how the whole world has gone after Him***” – and that's **exactly what Jesus wants** – “***the whole world to go after Him and follow Him!***”

And so – it's the same response today!

We have a choice

Slide 6a - Response

Either – we spread the word about Jesus – that He saves people who believe in Him - from sin and death – and saves them for Heaven – and we invite people to come and meet King Jesus and follow Him

OR – we reject Jesus – because we haven't seen that we need saving from our spiritual enemies of sin and death

It's a simple a) or b) choice – Jesus doesn't offer option c) - to sit on the fence undecided – by doing that - we are rejecting Him.

Slide 7 - Challenge

I pray we choose to follow Jesus and in doing so perhaps we can emulate Jesus as in His humility and servant-like heart.

In the next chapter 13 – even though Jesus faces death – what does He do? He washes His disciples' feet!

When Jesus had finished washing their feet – he said this to them - in John 13:14-17?

¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

So, I'd like to leave us a challenge this morning: In what ways can we follow Jesus' example – who's feet will we wash?

(pause)

Conclusion (Acts 4:12)

So, to finish up then,

Slide 8 – Acts 4:12

The bottom line for this Palm Sunday is there's **ONLY one way to be saved for Heaven**. Let's finish with **Acts 4:12**:

Salvation is found in no one else [but Jesus], for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Let's pray

Father God, thank you that you sent your precious Son Jesus – to defeat the enemies of – sin and death and the devil.

We thank you that as believers – because of Jesus – sin and death have no hold on us.

As we respond this morning – help us to share the truth – that there is no other name under Heaven – but Jesus – by which we can be saved

And help us to emulate Jesus' humility and servant-hood – and wash people's feet!

In His Name, we pray. Amen

Benediction (Revelation 7:9-12)

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was **a great multitude** that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing **white robes** and were **holding palm branches** in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

**“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”**

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying:

“Amen!

**Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honour
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!”**