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**BISHOP'S MISSIVE #184**  
**(Released March 22, 2024, A.D.)**

Greetings, CBC Family & Friends,


**So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" - John 12:13**

Palm Sunday means "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Palm Sunday is a fulfillment of a prophecy declared by Zechariah 450 to 500 years before Jesus arrived in Jerusalem.

It was a time of rejoicing as Jerusalem welcomed their King. Unfortunately, the celebration did not last long. Who Jesus came to be and what the people were looking for were quite different. The people were looking for a Messiah who would deliver them from political oppression and free them nationally, but Jesus had come to save them spiritually. The primary need of humanity was salvation from sin.

What does that have to do with palms? Palms were symbols of life. When the children of Israel were crossing the desert, they rejoiced at the site of the palm tree, which was an indication that life-giving water was near. For them and us, palms have long been a sign of victory, success, and glory. Even as you historically look at palms, victorious armies returning from battle and long military campaigns were welcomed home by their cities and villages with people waving palm branches. When the Jews waved their palms at Jesus and spread their clothing over the path He rode, they were affording Him the honors of a conquering hero and simultaneously defying the Roman occupiers.

Jesus' entire earthly ministry pointed to the week called Holy Week. Without Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday, we do not have a clear pathway to Good Friday or Resurrection Sunday. Palm Sunday is more than symbolism for remembering Passover. Palm Sunday is the day that Jesus begins his final triumph over disease, depression, death, and darkness. He launches the final week of his earthly mission and ministry, which is the story of the gospel: his death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and return. He is the sacrificial Lamb who was slain. It is his blood and not the blood of animals that we need for our redemption. It's not just another Sunday. It's Palm Sunday.

  
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