

Media and Graphics Notes

Word of Witness Video?	No
Sermon Starter Video?	Yes
Sermon Notes?	There will be one scripture to display on screen.
Other Notes	

Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about Palm Sunday and the way of the cross.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because it contains the beginning of the final preparations before Jesus death.

What is the context of this sermon?

This is preached after an incredibly busy week. This sermon and series were developed using *The Renegade Gospel*¹ by Mike Slaughter as a guide. This sermon was also developed from Adam Hamilton's Sermon, "The Last Week in Jerusalem. Anyway, enjoy!

What are the next action steps?

Say no to your self
Take up their cross daily
Follow me

What is the good news (bottom line)?

The good news is that the way of the cross leads to the resurrection and beyond.

Metadata

1. Topic(s)
 1. Grow
 2. Share
 3. Making Disciples
2. Sermon Books of the Bible
 1. Luke, Zechariah



¹ Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014)

Passion-Palm Sunday / 6th Sunday in Lent
Renegade Gospel - The Way of the Cross
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1FH5XZ6>

March 29, 2015
Luke 9:23-27
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,964
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3. Series
 1. Renegade Gospel
4. Speaker
 1. Andrew Conard
5. Tags
 1. Church, Methodist, United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church, El Dorado, Kansas, worship, sermon, parable, Palm Sunday, palm, Holy Week

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The Way of the Cross **9**

No to themselves

Take up their cross daily

Follow me

Conclusion **9**

Good News

Call to Action

Invitation

Closing Prayer

Luke 9:23-27, CEB

23 Jesus said to everyone, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow me. 24 All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will save them. 25 What advantage do people have if they gain the whole world for themselves yet perish or lose their lives? 26 Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. 27 I assure you that some standing here won't die before they see God's kingdom."

Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Introduction

Sermon Starter Video

[Play sermon starter video.](#)

*** Start Sermon Timer ***

Series Review

Today is Palm Sunday, the very first day of the most significant week in human history. It is during this week that the way Jesus lived, taught and led people finally came to a breaking point with the religious leaders and the Roman government.

Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today. Today, I hope that you will hear:

- Something new or find new questions
- Perspective on your life or something in your life that gives additional meaning to the message today.
- Guidance about how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to write down some of the things that you hear in the sermon today and take your bulletin home as a tool to grow in your faith outside of worship. You can reflect on what you heard today, pray for people of our congregation and read scripture to prepare for worship next week.

Opening

Prayer

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Getting Lost on a Walk

Several years ago, when we were living in the Kansas City area, Nicole and I went on a charity walk for the American Heart Association. We had a friend who was their regional marketing director. She had invited us to be part of the event.

We were among several thousand people that started off on the 3 or 4 mile route. It started and ended near the Country Club Plaza. We started off walking and were having a good time—walking along, enjoying conversation and the beautiful weather.

Then, we came to a place where the street split and we saw people going in both directions. Which way were we supposed to go. We did not have a map with us of the route, so did not know the “official” way. Everyone around us seemed split on which way to go – some going this way and some going that way. So, we followed what seemed to be the most popular route.

It became increasingly clear that many people were unsure of which way to go. We eventually made it back to the park where we started, although I am sure we did not follow the route that the organizers intended. We were following the wrong crowd.

Have you ever tried to figure out which way to go?

Maybe when you are driving and trying to get somewhere new...

Maybe in your life, figuring out which way to go with a job or a place to live...

Which way are you going to go?

Which crowd of people will you follow?

Transition

Today, we consider the way of the cross.

This is the path that Jesus walked on his final week in Jerusalem.

It is the path that Jesus invites us to walk today.

Let's go back to that Sunday over 2,000 years ago in the Holy Land.

Palm Sunday

Jewish Monday

You remember that Sunday is the Jewish Monday. It is the first day of the week. People were busy getting ready for work. Their sabbath is on Saturday.

Passover Week

This was a very important week. It was the week of Passover, when 200,000 Jews would come to the Holy City to remember the story of how God had lead the people out of slavery in Egypt.

Jerusalem's population was about 40,000. During Passover, their population increased five times.

Jesus was among those who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover.

65,000 coming to El Dorado

Imagine for a minute what this might have been like. You know what it is like when there are more people in town. It may be for turnaround or at the end of the summer when students are back in town. You notice a difference.

Now, imagine what it would be like if 65,000 people, 5 times our population, came to El Dorado. This is what it was like in Jerusalem at the time. Crazyiness.

Riding on a Donkey

As Jesus was coming, he tells his disciples to go ahead of him and find a donkey that is waiting for him – one that had never been ridden – a colt.

Why a donkey?

So why is he riding a donkey?

Jesus never rode a donkey. He has just walked 90 miles from Galilee to Jerusalem. Why does he want a donkey for the last half mile?

He was making a theological and political statement. He was saying, "I am the Messiah." I am the king you have been waiting for. So he asks for a donkey.

King David's Donkey

Why a donkey? A donkey is the animal which King David rode. King David was the greatest king Israel had ever known rode a donkey, not a stallion. They were more sure-footed on the terrain. They had a little bit more stamina than the horses. Also, it reflected humility. He was a shepherd king. He rode donkeys and his sons rode mules or donkeys. Everyone knew this in that day. All of the kings from the Davidic line rode a donkey or a mule.

Zechariah's Prophecy

500 years before Jesus, Zechariah wrote these words in Zechariah 9:9:

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion. Sing aloud, Daughter Jerusalem. Look, your king will come to you. He is righteous and victorious. He is humble and riding on an ass, on a colt, the offspring of a donkey.

So, when Jesus arrived and asked for a donkey, everyone knew what that meant. He was claiming to be the long awaited Messiah.

Response to the Prophecy

Cloaks

They responded as you would expect. They were hailing as the Messiah. They threw their cloaks in front of him, which is exactly what happened in the Old Testament when the kings came into Jerusalem – the people threw their cloaks on the ground before them.

Palm Branches

They began waving palm branches. They were a sign of victory. The Romans knew this and so did the Jews. They show up on the backs of their coins. So they waved their palm branches.

Psalm 118

They were shouting the words of Psalm 118, which every Jew had memorized. It was used at the feast of tabernacles and at the Passover.

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

This psalm was originally for when the kings returned to Jerusalem from battle. The people would cry out these words. Hosanna literally means “save us now.” Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Everyone is shouting this as Jesus is coming into Jerusalem. Jesus rides into Jerusalem, people are waving their palm branches. This is a royal procession - the return of a king.

Transition

There are two other royal processions that are going to happen that same day or within a day or two after.

Other Royal Processions

Herod Antipas

The first is King Herod Antipas. He was the son of King Herod the Great. He ruled over the Galilee to the north, where Jesus spent most of his life and ministry. He was coming to town for the Passover. He had his soldiers, his chariot and he had a host of people who gathered to watch him come into town. It was a royal parade and people were excited about that. Here was the son of King Herod the Great. There was a whole party of people, the Herodians who thought he should be king. So, there was a royal parade coming in from the North.

Pontius Pilate

From the West, Pontius Pilate. He was the Roman governor and ruler of Judea, the southern part of the Holy Land. He was coming with 1,000 Roman soldiers that day. They were marching from Caesarea, where his palace was, to keep the peace in Jerusalem during the Passover. The passover was a time when people remembered that they were once slaves and God set them free in Egypt. They were praying that God would again set them free from the Romans.

The Romans come marching in with 1,000 troops, charioteers, horses, banners. The message was very clear. If you dare rebel against us, you will be crushed.

Transition

You have Herod Antipas, who killed John the Baptist, riding into town with his soldiers. You have Pontius Pilate riding into town with his soldiers. Then, you have Jesus with a ragtag band of misfits with people who were standing up there and waving their palm branches as Jesus is coming down on his donkey, claiming to be the king.

Who Will you Follow?

The Way of the Cross

No to themselves

Take up their cross daily

Follow me

Conclusion

[Text here]

Good News

[Text here]

Call to Action

[Text here]

Invitation

[Text here]

Closing Prayer

[Text here]

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	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Sermon Time		