

Media and Graphics Notes

Sermon Starter Video?	Yes
Sermon Notes?	Yes
Other Notes	There will be a video at the end of the service just before the benediction

Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about Palm Sunday and Jesus being anointed during Holy Week.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because it invites to consider how we respond when we see Jesus.

What is the context of this sermon?

This sermon was developed using *The Renegade Gospel*¹ by Mike Slaughter and Adam Hamilton's sermon, "The Last Week in Jerusalem" as guides.

What are the next action steps?

During this Holy Week, consider:

- Like the crowd outside Jerusalem, when are you excited to see Jesus?
- Like the disciples, where do you question or just not understand?
- Like the woman who anoints Jesus, how do we show honor to Jesus?²

What is the good news (bottom line)?

The good news is that Jesus is anointed for a death that leads to life.



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

² Leander E. Keck, ed., Mark, vol. VIII of *The New Interpreter's Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002, 699.

Metadata

Topic(s)

1. Change Lives
2. Share
3. Share Christ
4. Worship

Sermon Books of the Bible

1. Mark
2. Psalm
3. Zechariah

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, Eldorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, anoint, death, PalmSunday, Jerusalem, Jesus

This work by Andrew Conard is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>.

Mark 14:1-11, CEB	5
Response to Scripture	5
Introduction	5
Sermon Starter Video	5
Palm Sunday	5
Sermon Notes and Scripture Study	5
Take Notes	
God Speaking	
Tool for Spiritual Growth	
Prayer	6
Emotions, Feelings and Memories	6
Inside Out	6
Making Memories	6
Transition	
Palm Sunday	6
Jewish Monday	6
Passover Week	7
65,000 coming to El Dorado	
Riding on a Donkey	7
Why a donkey?	7
King David	
Sure-footed and Humble	
Zechariah's Prophecy	
Jesus	
Response to the Prophecy	8
Cloaks	
Palm Branches	
Psalm 118	8
Lord, save us!	
Personal Example: Watching a Parade	8

Transition	
Jesus is Anointed	9
Dinner at Bethany	9
Nard	
Protest of the Disciples	9
Cost in Today's Daily Wage	
Jesus Response	10
Universality of Poverty	
Anointing for Burial	
Conclusion	11
Good News	11
Call to Action	11
Invitation	11
Closing Prayer	11

Mark 14:1-11, CEB

It was two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and legal experts through cunning tricks were searching for a way to arrest Jesus and kill him. But they agreed that it shouldn't happen during the festival; otherwise, there would be an uproar among the people.

Jesus was at Bethany visiting the house of Simon, who had a skin disease. During dinner, a woman came in with a vase made of alabaster and containing very expensive perfume of pure nard. She broke open the vase and poured the perfume on his head. Some grew angry. They said to each other, "Why waste the perfume? This perfume could have been sold for almost a year's pay and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.

Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me. You always have the poor with you; and whenever you want, you can do something good for them. But you won't always have me. She has done what she could. She has anointed my body ahead of time for burial. I tell you the truth that, wherever in the whole world the good news is announced, what she's done will also be told in memory of her."

Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to give Jesus up to them. When they heard it, they were delighted and promised to give him money. So he started looking for an opportunity to turn him in.

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.](#)

Palm Sunday

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

Take Notes

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today.

God Speaking

I pray that you will hear God speaking to you sometime during the service today. Listen for God's word for you – something that helps you live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Whenever you hear it, write it down.

Tool for Spiritual Growth

Then, take this bulletin home with you so that you can grow in your faith outside of worship by reflecting on what you heard today, praying for others connected with our community and reading scripture.

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.

Emotions, Feelings and Memories

Inside Out

One of my favorite movies from last summer is Inside Out. ... The film is set in the mind of a young girl named Riley Andersen, where five personified emotions—Joy, Sadness, Fear, Anger, and Disgust—try to lead her through life as her parents move the family from Minnesota to San Francisco and she has to adjust to her new life.³

Making Memories

The story connects how memories are made and how they are connected with our emotions. Some memories are joyful, sad, angry...

What events or moments have you formed in your life connected with emotion?

Transition

This week is filled with strong memories of Jesus last week on earth and the stories of our faith.

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.

³ Wikipedia contributors, "Inside Out (2015 film)," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Inside_Out_\(2015_film\)&oldid=710744183](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Inside_Out_(2015_film)&oldid=710744183) (accessed March 20, 2016).

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.

At the time, 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.

Craziness.

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?

King David

Also, you remember that a donkey is the animal which King David rode.

David was the greatest king of Israel and he rode a donkey, not a stallion. 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.

Sure-footed and Humble

They were more sure-footed on the terrain. They had a little bit more stamina than the horses. Also, it reflected humility.

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.⁴

⁴ Zechariah 9:9, CEB.

Jesus

Jesus 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.

Response to the Prophecy

Cloaks

The people of Jerusalem responded as you would expect.
They were hailing 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.

Palm Branches

They began waving palm branches, which were a sign of victory.
The Romans knew this and so did the Jews. Palms show up Roman coins.
The people were waving palm branches as a sign of victory.

Psalm 118

They were shouting the words of Psalm 118, which was used at the feast of tabernacles and at the Passover. Every Jew would have the words of Psalm 118:25-26 memorized:

"Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you."⁵

This psalm was originally for when the kings returned to Jerusalem from battle. The people would cry out these words.

Lord, save us!

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.

Personal Example: Watching a Parade

Imagine going to a parade - maybe when you were younger or perhaps with children or grand children.

What is your favorite part?

What do you expect to happen when it is over?

⁵ Psalm 118:25-26, NIV.

The story of Palm Sunday is a bit like that, except the people were expecting something bigger to happen after the parade was over.

Some were anticipating that Jesus would take control and drive out the Romans.

Others, perhaps, weren't sure what was coming next...

Many felt that something was going to happen in the days ahead.

Transition

What happened was not quite like anything most people were expecting.

Jesus is Anointed

Dinner at Bethany

A few days later, the scripture for today from Mark 14:3 tells us that:

“Jesus was at Bethany visiting the house of Simon, who had a skin disease. During dinner, a woman came in with a vase made of alabaster and containing very expensive perfume of pure nard. She broke open the vase and poured the perfume on his head.”⁶

What was it that she is pouring on Jesus' head?

Nard

Nard is an aromatic essential oil derived from a flowering plant of the honeysuckle family⁷ which grows in the Himalayas of Nepal, China, and India. The oil has, since ancient times, been used as a perfume, as a medicine and in religious contexts, across a wide territory from India to Europe.⁸

Protest of the Disciples

As the disciples often seem to do, they protest. We read in Mark 14:4-5:

“Some grew angry. They said to each other, “Why waste the perfume? This perfume could have been sold for almost a year's pay and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her.”⁹

⁶ Mark 14:3, CEB.

⁷ Wikipedia contributors, "Nardostachys jatamansi," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Nardostachys_jatamansi&oldid=694294599 (accessed March 19, 2016).

⁸ Wikipedia contributors, "Spikenard," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Spikenard&oldid=710026627> (accessed March 19, 2016).

⁹ Mark 14:4-5, CEB.

Cost in Today's Daily Wage

What is translated here as almost a year's pay is 300 denarii, which is the daily wage for a laborer. With today's minimum wage, what this woman has just poured on Jesus head is worth over \$17,000.

Jesus Response

In Mark 14:6-9, Jesus continues:

“Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me. You always have the poor with you; and whenever you want, you can do something good for them. But you won't always have me. She has done what she could. She has anointed my body ahead of time for burial. I tell you the truth that, wherever in the whole world the good news is announced, what she's done will also be told in memory of her.”¹⁰

Universality of Poverty

Jesus reminds the disciples that this woman has done something significant, something good. “The universality of poverty means that the righteous will always have to fulfill the responsibilities of charity.”¹¹ “If the poor are in desperate need, then this woman's failure to donate the cost of the ointment is neither the cause nor the cure.”¹²

We aren't off the hook today.

As people of faith, we still have the responsibility and the opportunity to care for those who are in greatest need in El Dorado, Butler County and around the world.

Anointing for Burial

“Anointing with costly ointment signals the burial of an important person, perhaps even a king.”¹³ “Jesus' praise for the woman for anointing his body for burial shows that he knows that the purpose of the journey to Jerusalem—his death (and resurrection)—will be accomplished as he has predicted. The disciples have failed to understand Jesus' words about his death. But now a woman has recognized the truth without such instruction.”¹⁴

¹⁰ Mark 14:6-9, CEB.

¹¹ Leander E. Keck, ed., Mark, vol. VIII of *The New Interpreter's Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002, 698.

¹² Leander E. Keck, ed., Mark, vol. VIII of *The New Interpreter's Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002, 699.

¹³ Leander E. Keck, ed., Mark, vol. VIII of *The New Interpreter's Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002, 699.

¹⁴ Leander E. Keck, ed., Mark, vol. VIII of *The New Interpreter's Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002, 698-9.

Conclusion

The truth about Palm Sunday is that Jesus' exciting and promising entry into Jerusalem will end in his death on Friday.

The shouts of "Hosanna" turn to shouts of crucify him.

In his last few days, the disciples still don't understand Jesus' words about death.

This woman is one of the only characters of Holy Week that seems to get it.

Jesus is going to die, just as he predicted.

Good News

The good news is that Jesus is anointed for a death that leads to life.

Call to Action

During this Holy Week, consider:

- Like the crowd outside Jerusalem, when are you excited to see Jesus?
- Like the disciples, where do you question or just not understand?
- Like the woman who anoints Jesus, how do we show honor to Jesus?¹⁵

Invitation

We have the opportunity to become more and more in every way like Christ and to join our story with the story of God. Even small acts that connect with God's story, even those that may seem insignificant, can be a big deal. Consider the woman in this story. We don't know her name, yet wherever in the whole world the good news of Jesus Christ is announced, what this woman did will also be told in memory of her.

Even right here in Butler County.

Closing Prayer

[Text here]

Amen.

¹⁵ Leander E. Keck, ed., Mark, vol. VIII of *The New Interpreter's Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002, 699.