



I. REVIEW/INTRO

A. The Kingdom is here!

Matthew 4:17 (J.B. Phillips) From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “You must change your hearts—for the kingdom of Heaven has arrived.”

Luke 4:17-21 (TLB) The book of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him, and he opened it to the place where it says: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted and to announce that captives shall be released and the blind shall see, that the downtrodden shall be freed from their oppressors, and that God is ready to give blessings to all who come to him.” He closed the book and handed it back to the attendant and sat down, while everyone in the synagogue gazed at him intently. ²¹ Then he added, “These Scriptures came true today!”

B. Palm Sunday and the Triumphal entry

- I don’t think that most people really knew what was going on

John 12:15-16 (TLB) “Don’t be afraid of your King, people of Israel, for he will come to you meekly, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” (His disciples didn’t realize at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy; but after Jesus returned to his glory in heaven, then they noticed how many prophecies of Scripture had come true before their eyes.)

II. PALM SUNDAY

A. The rest of the story

- Jesus is entering Jerusalem, and most people were there because of Lazarus

John 12:9-10 (TLB) When the ordinary people of Jerusalem heard of his arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus—the man who had come back to life again. Then the chief priests decided to kill Lazarus too, for it was because of him that many of the Jewish leaders had deserted and believed in Jesus as their Messiah.

John 12:17-19 (TLB) And those in the crowd who had seen Jesus call Lazarus back to life were telling all about it. That was the main reason why so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this mighty miracle. Then the Pharisees said to each other, “We’ve lost. Look—the whole world has gone after him!”

B. Seek first the kingdom of God

- The crowd celebrated Jesus but didn’t understand His true mission

III. LAZARUS

A. The Triumphal entry has a much to do with Lazarus as it does Jesus

B. He’s been dead four days



John 11:17 (TLB) When they arrived at Bethany, they were told that Lazarus had already been in his tomb for four days.

- They believed that the soul **might hover near the body** for up to three days, hoping to return, but after three days, the soul departed permanently, and death was considered final

John 11:39 (TLB) “Roll the stone aside,” Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man’s sister, said, “By now the smell will be terrible, for he has been dead four days.”

John 11:43-44 (NLT) Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!”

C. This miracle starts at what we would think is the end

IV. CAN THESE BONES LIVE?

A. Ezekiel’s Vision

- Can these bones live? Can God take dead things and make them live again?

B. An unusual plan – speak to the bones

Ezekiel 37:4-5 (NLT) Then he told me to speak to the bones and say: “O dry bones, listen to the words of God, for the Lord God says, ‘See! I am going to make you live and breathe again!’

Ezekiel 37:7-10 (NLT) So I spoke these words from God, just as he told me to; and suddenly there was a rattling noise from all across the valley, and the bones of each body came together and attached to each other as they used to be. Then, as I watched, the muscles and flesh formed over the bones, and skin covered them, but the bodies had no breath. Then he told me to call to the wind and say: “The Lord God says: Come from the four winds, O Spirit, and breathe upon these slain bodies, that they may live again.” So I spoke to the winds as he commanded me, and the bodies began breathing; they lived and stood up—a very great army.

- God gave Ezekiel the words, Ezekiel spoke, and God’s spirit went to work

C. The resurrection and the life

John 11:25-26 (NLT) Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

D. This is the beginning of the road to the resurrection