

Entitlement: The belief that one is inherently deserving of privileges or special treatment.

"Although entitlement is a personal attitude or trait, the consequences of entitlement are often most visible in social contexts. Fractured relationships, interpersonal conflict, and social aggression are common associates of entitlement. Divine entitlement appears to be an extension of this understanding to the religious and spiritual domain."¹

Thoughts?

Are Americans entitled? Are American Christians entitled? (70% of US)²

Are you? Do you believe that you are deserving of privileges or special treatment?

What does that have to do with Palm Sunday? Our entitlements cause us to I pray, save me from my situation, while God's bigger and better plan is to save our souls. Lets get to work...

Context

-Gospel of John

[30] Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; [31] but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

True faith in the true Christ that you may have true life

-Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

-They have a celebration meal, Mary anoints Jesus, Judas decides to betray him, and now it's time to travel to Jerusalem, the next day...

But don't miss the anticipation of this moment. John 11:55-57

[55] Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. [56] They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?" [57] Now the chief

¹ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/41401300_Creating_Hostility_and_Conflict_Effects_of_Entitlement_and_Self-Image_Goals

² <https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/>

Palm Sunday, "Save, I Pray"

priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him. John 11:55-57

Read John 12:9-12

Coming to a head at the Passover (feast). Those who went to Bethany to see Lazarus, those already in Jerusalem in preparation of the passover, all leading to this point; the triumphal entry.

Read vs. 13

[8] Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Matthew 21:8

-First century version of rolling out the white carpet

Proclaiming Hosanna-Aramaic expression meaning "Save, I pray", "expresses the prayer that God will grant help and success."³

Psalm 118:1, [1] Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 118:25-26

[25] Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success! (Hosanna)

[26] Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD. (ESV)

Not only a culmination of Jesus ministry, the crowds, the white carpet, the palms, the proclamations, the religious leaders looking to kill him, the murderous plot, all of it, but behind the scenes God is Sovereignly fulfilling prophesy.

Psalm 118:24,

[24] This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

But what day? It's referring to Jesus!

³ Lohse, E. (1964-). [ὡσαννά](#). G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 9, p. 682). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Palm Sunday, "Save, I Pray"

[22] The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. [23] This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. [24] This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. [25] Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success! (Hosanna) [26] Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! Psalm 118:22-26

If only the same people proclaiming Hosanna who in a week cry crucify, would have prayed this to be saved from the real issue, their heart, and for real freedom, being reconciled to God, but, they weren't. They wanted political and religious freedom and because of it, they missed Jesus all together. They were entitled. They expected God to save them from their situation, not their soul, and it led them to switch loyalties and go from "Hosanna, Blessed be the one who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel", to them crying out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." John 19:15

Yet Jesus still comes... who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame... our humble king, riding on a colt.
Again fulfilling prophesy from Zach. 9:9

Read vs. 14-15

To be far, hindsight is 2020. It's easy for us to go, "How could they not see?"

Even the disciples didn't get it.. Read vs. 16

I wonder, though, we do have the availability to look back, to see, to understand, yet do we struggle in the same way?

-When we cry Hosanna, "Save, I pray," are we asking to save us from our situation or our souls? Save us from our pain, or our from our evil hearts.

EXAMPLE

Picking weeds as a kid-"Pick one and 3 pop up"

As a kid, I didn't understand that I needed to go the root.

In counseling, $a+b=c$.

God's economy-What's of value in His kingdom?

Palm Sunday, "Save, I Pray"

It's a process (The "R"), and the process is aligning our values with God's
Conversation with (Randy)
Our religious freedom is a gift.

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Be led by there spirit-
True faith, true Christ, true life