

Walk to the CROSS

Pastor Hugh's Message Series Preparing You for EASTER, Sundays, 9 & 10:30am

Hugh Whitfield
Give Jesus Your Best

Sunday, April 13, 2025
Luke 19:28-40

²⁸ After He had said these things, He was going on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When He approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of *you*; there, as you enter, you will find a colt tied on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it *here*. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say, 'The Lord has need of it.'" ³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord has need of it." ³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, and they threw their coats on the colt and put Jesus *on it*. ³⁶ As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road. ³⁷ As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, ³⁸ shouting:

"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." ⁴⁰ But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!"

- A. Today we come to the end of a remarkable chapter in the history of Pearl Baptist Church. Since 1967 Pearl has gathered for worship for baptisms for weddings for funerals for VBS and for special events in this wonderful sanctuary.

That means ministry has occurred in this sanctuary:

- 800 months
- Nearly 3,000 days
- And some 400 Sundays
- And led by 7 different Pastors

- B. William Wease led the charge to build this sanctuary. And in 1967 he led a parade of people from the white block church just down the street across from the Post Office and marched everyone inside this sanctuary for a grand opening and celebration.

- Who was part of the grand opening of Pearl's new sanctuary?

This sanctuary has a lot of wonderful history.

And we have many stories to tell of God's blessings and faithfulness.

- C. And that faithfulness includes the addition of 100s of new family & friends and brothers and sisters in Jesus.

I stand in awe of how God has more than doubled our Sunday morning attendance just in the past 4 years. And our offerings have grown 61% over the past 7 years.

Praise God for His GRACE and for His GROWTH.

- D. And can we take moment and praise God for giving us this sanctuary for the past 67 years and pouring out His amazing grace upon us?

- E. And **God's not finished with this sanctuary.**

He's repurposing it for our PearlKIDZ.

That means there are going to be 100s of kids who are going to come to Pearl over these next years and believe and receive Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Is that not exciting? Is that not what Pearl is all about?

- F. **God is not closing the book on Pearl. He's just starting a brand new chapter. And it's going to be a great one.**

Because many of your kids, grandkids, & great grandkids are going to get saved and get Jesus in their life.

- G. And God is opening a brand new chapter for the rest of of us as well, as we begin worshipping together in our brand new Worship Center starting next Sunday. And I can't think of a better time to start this next chapter than Resurrection Sunday.

And oh how wonderful the Worship Center is looking. And I want to encourage you to do a "walk-through" and "Prayer Walk" through the Worship Center following the service today or this afternoon.

Ask God to be magnified and glorified in every seat and for multitudes to be saved!

- H. And regardless of whether you prayer walk or not, as you prepare to start a brand new chapter in our new Worship Center, I want you to make this commitment:

Give Jesus your BEST.

In fact, you're going to give Jesus your best in 3 areas:

1. Give Jesus Your Best PRACTICE

- A. Now remember, it's Sunday in Jerusalem, and just a few days before Jesus' crucifixion. Some 2 million Jews have packed out Jerusalem as they celebrate the annual feast of Passover.

Jesus and his disciples are staying 2 miles East of Jerusalem in a small country village called Bethany, the home of Lazarus, Mary & Martha;
Just a week before, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.
And now the time has come for Jesus to go into Jerusalem.

- B. And so Jesus and his disciples walk the narrow road that ascended the Mount of Olives, and the Bible says:

29 When He approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, **30** saying, "Go into the village ahead of you (*Bethphage*); there, as you enter, you will find a colt tied on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it *here*. **31** If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say, 'The Lord has need of it.'" **32** So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them.

- C. Notice, Jesus makes a request of 2 of His disciples.
Why would Jesus choose 2 disciples?
Why would Jesus choose those specific disciples? (we don't know who)

- 1) It may have been an issue of **TRAINING**
That is, maybe these 2 disciples have specific skills with handling a donkey & an unbroken colt.
- 2) It may have been an issue of **TRUST**
Jesus chose those 2 disciples because He could count on them to get the job done and to get it done right.
- 3) It may have been a **TEST**
Mk. 10:35-45
Just the week before – James & John – requested to sit beside Jesus in Heaven – riled all the other disciples – Jesus addressed them,
"43 whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, **44** and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. **45** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

I wonder if the 2 were James & John, just to see if they learned their lesson.

- D. Whatever the case, Jesus has a job for you to do, and He is willing and wanting to use you.
- He doesn't call you to sit on the sidelines.
 - He doesn't save you to sit in the stands.
 - He saves you so you can serve – and specifically, serve HIM!
- E. And God will call you, because
- (1) **You are TRAINED** – You have a skillset God wants to use.

God has given you specific tools to do His work. Everyone has a tool in their toolbox that they can use here at Pearl.

- Cooking Tool
- Building Tool
- Teaching Tool
- Leading Tool
- Financial Tool
- Hospitality Tool
- Praying Tool
- Musical Tool
- Techy Tool
- Cleaning Tool
- Social Tool
- Art & craft Tool

Ex. Can't wait for everyone to see the new pulpit.
Created & crafted by Neil Bollinger

And God knows the tools you have, and He wants you to use them to grow His church for His glory.

(2) God may call you, because **you are TRUSTED.**
You are the guy/gal who will get the job done.
God can count on you doing His assignments.

In fact, He knows you're not WAITING for things to happen. You're MAKING things happen.

And God opens door for you to do great things for Him.

(3) God may call you, because **you are being TESTED.**
That is, God wants to see if you have learned the lesson about servanthood.

God's not trying to make you into a Ruler.
He's trying to make you into a SERVANT.

Sometimes, God will give you a small job; a dirty job! A job that is beneath you; a job you may think you're too "big" to do.

As someone said, **"If you are too big to do the small job, you are too small to do the big job."**

Sometimes, God will ask us to do a small job to see if we will be faithful in the big job.

Point is: We're not here to do our thing. We're here to do God's thing.

F. These 2 disciples no doubt proved TRUSTWORTHY!
They got the job done.

Here's our commitment.

I'm going to give Jesus my best Practice

2. Give Jesus Your Best PRESENT

In this story 3 presents are given to Jesus – and all focused on the Royalty of Jesus

1) Donkey & a Colt – Declaring Royalty

Kings – rode horses & donkeys

Horses – animal ridden by a king in a time of war

Donkeys – ridden in a time of peace

Why is Jesus riding a Donkey? Because Jesus is declaring that He is the Prince of Peace. That is, you will never get peace through a President, government, money, success, health... You will only get peace in and through a personal relationship with Jesus.

And Jesus came to give you peace.

And His peace came through a cross where Jesus pardoned you not from some, but all your sins.

And you forever have peace WITH God and the peace OF God.

2) Cloak – Honoring Royalty

v. 35-36 they threw their coats on the colt and put Jesus *on it*.³⁶ As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road.

OT - people spread out their cloaks in honor of Jehu becoming king.

Jesus is the King of Israel. King of all the Nations. King over all the Earth. King of kings & Lord of lords.

He's King of your life.

He's the reason you are breathing.

He's the reason for your hearts beating.

He's the reason you're walking & talking

3) Palm Branches – Rejoicing in Royalty

Mt. 21:8

others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road.

Jn. 12:13

took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him,

They were expressing joy in Jesus' victory.

A. Here's the point:

I can't give Jesus my least.

I must give Jesus my best.

He's not just a nice guy. He's the King of the Universe. And He's King over my life.

He's the Peace Speaker, the Way Maker, the Miracle Worker. And He's the only one who has given me victory over death, hell, & the grave.

- B. So, I can't give Him my least. I must give Jesus my best.

Ex. Musical Talent – I'm not just showing up to play. I'm practicing every day.

Ex. Greeter – I'm not showing up late. I'm showing up early with a skip in my step and a smile in my mile.

Ex. Leading a Bible Group – I'm not throwing a lesson together. I'm doing my homework to deliver God's mail.

I can't give Jesus who is King of my life the bare minimum. I've got to give Him what He deserves.

And what He deserves is ALL I'VE GOT!

- C. And as we begin this new chapter in our new worship center I challenge you to give Jesus your best.

Give Jesus your best Practice
Give Jesus your best Presents

3. Give Jesus Your Best PRAISE

- A. Thousands lined the road as Jesus paraded down the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem.
And the sounds of celebration echoed all over Jerusalem.

³⁷ As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, ³⁸ shouting:

"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

- B. They weren't just throwing a victory party. They were throwing a Praise Party – all for the ONE who is worthy of praise.

2 observations: Church struggles with Praying
Church struggles with Praising

Grew up at FBC – we had silent prayer & silent praise.
FBC – Bathroom in the foyer – I was 6 and singing away.

- C. God wants us to throw Him a Praise Party:
And if you want to know how to praise God, just praise like this multitude – do half of what they did!
 - 1) **Praise the Lord JOYFULLY** (v. 37, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully)
 - 2) **Praise the Lord LOUDLY** (v. 37, with a loud voice)

- 3) **Praise the Lord VICTORIOUSLY** (v. 38, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”) (PSALM 118:26)
“Hosanna” – save us now

HE’S OUR VICTORIOUS LORD AND WE’VE GOT VICTORY!

- D. And the Praise Party was so joyful, loud, and victorious, that it unnerved the Pharisees:

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” ⁴⁰ But Jesus answered, “I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!”

If you silence the people, you’re going to experience a Rock Concert – because all the rocks are going to praise Jesus.

- E. As we start our new chapter in our new Worship Center, we’re not going to have a rock concert. But we are going to raise His praise.

In fact, my prayer is that you will give Jesus your best Praise; and you won’t hold back. Because He’s worth it.

And I’ve got some great news:

Told you: Sacred & Great Sound

The sound in our new Worship Center is going to be awesome.

- F. And as we raise the praise, I’m believing God’s going to do some delivering.

Because lost people are going hear and see our hearts for Jesus, and they’re going to get INFECTED with our love for Jesus. And many are going to get saved.

All through the power of our praise.

- G. In fact, next Sunday, the choir is going to sing. They’re singing 3 powerful songs. And if those songs don’t fire up your faith, your wood’s wet.

And your praise ought to fire up people’s faith, especially lost people’s faith.

Don’t come in next Sunday expecting a funeral.

Come in next Sunday expecting JESUS.

And giving Jesus the best praise you could ever give.

Conclusion:

Let me remind you:

While we are leaving this sanctuary for a new sanctuary, God is not finished with this building. He's just repurposing it to reach more kids for Jesus.

And as we begin our next chapter in our new Worship Center, let's make a commitment to give God our BEST.

Our best Practice.

Our best Presents.

Our best Praise.

Will you commit to giving God your best?