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Church of the Lord

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오늘의 말씀

"Following Jesus When the Crowd Fades"

[Matthew 21:8~9]

And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. (9) Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"

[Matthew 27:22~23]

Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" (23) Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"

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Today again we begin with the fixed declaration of this series: "Living as a true believer is not about trying harder, but about living aligned with the Spirit."

Introduction ~ The text shows that from the same lips can come both "Hosanna" and "Cru-cify Him"

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people shouted, "Hosanna!" Waving palm branches and spreading their cloaks on the road, they welcomed Je-sus as King. But only a few days later, in the same city, from the mouths of the same people, a completely different cry burst out: "Crucify Him!" This scene is not merely a historical event. It asks us a question. Am I a believer of "Hosanna," or a disciple who follows to the end?

Main Message

"Hosanna" was expectation, but when that expectation collapsed, what came as reality was the Cross

[Matthew 21:9] Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, say-ing: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"

"Hosanna" originally means "Save us." However, in their "Hosanna" was not the will of God, but their own expectations.

They wanted liberation from Rome. They wanted a political king. They wanted a Messiah who would solve their problems. But Jesus did not come to fulfill their expectations; He came to bear the Cross.

So the crowd became disappointed. And that disappointment eventually turned into anger. Through last Sunday's message, we learned about the serious collision between God's expectation and people's expectations. We saw the problem of the modern church, which is no longer moving toward the glory of God and His purpose for the church, but is changing into a Consumer-Centered Church that views believers as con-sumers.

Even in the minds of those gathered at the temple in Jerusalem during the Passover, such a sharp collision was taking place.

Here we learn that the faith of the crowd changes according to circumstances.

[Matthew 27:22~23] Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" (23) Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"

The crowd was the same people. The ones who shouted "Hosanna" on Palm Sunday are now shouting "Crucify Him!" on Friday.

Why did this happen? Because their faith was not aligned by the Spirit, but a faith that reacted to circumstances. They were not following Jesus; they were moving according to their own expectations.

What we must remember is that this crowd on Palm Sunday did not suddenly appear. Many of them had already experienced Jesus. They were people who had eaten bread in the wilderness, people who had been healed of diseases, people who had seen de-mons cast out, people who had witnessed Jesus' miracles in Capernaum and Galilee. They did not simply follow Jesus as a "good teacher," but they even wanted to make Him king.

[John 6:15] Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

What was Jesus to them? He was the One who solved their problems, the One who satisfied their hunger, the One who removed their pain. In the end, their faith was based on experience. But at a certain point, Jesus spoke very differently.

[John 6:53~54] Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. (54) "Whoever eats

My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

What was the response of the people who heard this?

[John 6:60] Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"

And eventually it came to this:

[John 6:66] From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

They gathered because of miracles, but they left because of truth. The Jesus they wanted was a Jesus who fills me, helps me, and satisfies me. But that is not why Jesus came. Jesus said, "Eat Me," "Be one with Me," "Die with Me."

At that moment, the crowd realized, "This is not the king we expected." And their expectation turned into disappointment, and that disappointment eventually turned into rejection.

Therefore, the "Hosanna" of Palm Sunday was not simply praise, but a shout filled with their own expectations, and the "Crucify Him" a few days later was anger that came from shattered expectations. In the end, they followed Jesus for what He could give them, but they left Him when He demanded their lives.

The theological core is this: the problem of the crowd was not that they had no faith, but that they had a faith with wrong expectations.

A true disciple is one who remains even after the crowd leaves.

The Gospel of John records a very important scene.

[John 6:66~68] From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. (67) Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" (68) But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

When many disciples left Jesus, He asked the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" At that moment Peter answered, "Lord, to

whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Here we see the image of a true disciple. The one who remains even after the crowd leaves—that is the disciple.

Faith after Hosanna is not emotion, but decision. The crowd on Palm Sunday was emotionally excited. But that emotion did not last. Because their faith had not passed through the Cross. The faith of a true believer is not emotion but decision, not a moment but continuation, not a crowd but a relationship. Therefore, faith in the Spirit is a faith that follows to the end. Last week we learned that the path the Spirit leads ultimately is the path of the Cross. Then today we must take one more step forward. Faith in the Spirit is not a faith that leaves at the Cross, but a faith that follows even beyond the Cross to the end.

We see biblical examples of this kind of faith — people who followed to the end

The women who followed Jesus all the way to the Cross. When the male disciples left, the women remained to the end.

[Matthew 27:55~56] And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, (56) among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Then there is John. When all the disciples were scattered, John stood by the Cross. Jesus was able to entrust His mother to that disciple John.

[John 19:26~27] When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" (27) Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

Then we cannot leave out Joseph of Arimathea. When everything seemed to be over, he took responsibility for the body of Jesus.

[Matthew 27:57~60] Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. (58) This man went to Pi-late and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. (59) When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, (60) and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

What is the common point of these people? They remained even after the crowd disap-peared.

Conclusion ~ After Hosanna is the real faith

Palm Sunday is not a glorious beginning. Rather, it is a test. Anyone can shout "Hosanna." But only true disciples remain even after the Cross. Therefore, today we declare this: the life of a true believer is not a faith that shouts in the crowd, but a faith that follows the Lord to the end even after the crowd fades.

Prayer Points

- A. Lord, give me a faith that follows to the end, not a faith that depends on emotions.
- B. Give me a faith that does not leave You even after Hosanna.
- C. Give me a faith that does not shake even before the Cross.
- D. Let me obey to the end according to the leading of the Spirit.
- E. Let our church become a church that raises disciples, not a crowd.