

Sermon Palm Sunday 13 April 25 DP3

Exalting Jesus Christ

Luke 19:28-40, Philippians 2:5-11

Intro

- DP3 Power of Prayer Topics
 - Principle of Praying with Power
 - Drawing near to God
 - Intercessory Prayer
 - Prayer and Vision
 - Prayer and Spiritual Awakening
 - Nurturing Prayer in the local Church
- The five why's
 - - asking a maximum of five different why's to get to the bottom of things
- Why are we teaching this?
 - To be better equipped as Christians and Leaders?
 - To improve our relationship with God, Father, Son & Spirit
 - In the end to teach the whole church the importance of prayer
- But why? To grow the Church
- But why? To help more people to believe in Jesus Christ
- But why? So that more people are saved
- But why? So that they can give glory to Jesus Christ!

Aha: To give glory to Jesus Christ. Or in other words: To exalt Jesus Christ

To **exalt** is to raise in rank, to glorify, or to increase the effect or intensity of. In all its definitions, exalt is transitive, meaning it takes a direct object (i.e., you can't just exalt, period; you have to exalt someone or something). The word's past participle, exalted, is often used to mean elevated in rank or lofty.

To **exult** is to rejoice greatly or to be jubilant or triumphant. It is always intransitive, meaning it does not have a direct object (i.e., you can't exult someone or something; you just exult). The most common derivative of exult is the adjective exultant, which means marked by great joy or jubilation.

This happens to be Dunamis Vision Statement:

Vision Statement

Exalting Jesus Christ!

Igniting the Church in the Power of the Holy Spirit
under the authority of the Holy Bible as the Word of God
through Prayer, Leadership Development, Growing the Church, and Mission Outreach

So that the Church may be empowered to do all that Christ commands
for the glory of God the Father.

And that is what these two readings about too.

Luke

We see Jesus exalted on a donkey, people shouting Hosanna, as he makes his way into Jerusalem.

And this journey of course ends on the cross. In John's gospel Jesus is exalted on the Cross. In Luke there's the sense of the inevitably of Jesus journey to the cross

But this is the Son of God. At any time he would have been able to change the proceedings. And the gospels would have ended with the triumphant entry

It would have read as a exciting action novel. Jesus rides into Jerusalem and fixes everything. The Romans gone, the nation of Israel restored.

But then Jesus would not have been obedient to the Father. And the final victory would not have been won.

Philippians

That is why the Philippines reading is so significant! It speaks about what Jesus did as God's Son as a human being. Emptied himself, taking form as slave and in human likeness. He humbled himself and became obedient.

Obedience has been a theme this week. Obedience in prayer: praying what we are called to pray, not what we want to pray.

And in order to do that we have to humble ourselves. Let go of our own agenda's. Is that what stepping up in our relationship with God means (theme of New Year Prayer?) To let go of our agenda's humble ourselves and be obedient?

This is what Jesus did. And we are to follow his example.

Death on a cross

As a result God exalted Jesus above everyone and everything. And that everyone should bent their knee to him, and that everyone confesses that Jesus is Lord

So that the glory goes to the Father

That is why we spend 5 hard days working on understanding prayer and working on prayer. So that in the end Jesus will be exalted.

So lets carry on these prayers, in our homes in our churches in our families, in our towns and cities.

So that Jesus Christ will be exalted

We need to pray what Jesus wants us to pray. And that is hard work. But very rewarding.

Remain in me as I remain in you John 15

Amen