

Scripture Text: Luke 9:51 “Now it came to pass, when the time had come for [Jesus] to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,”

# 'The Faithfulness of Jesus'

What I want to discuss this afternoon, on this Palm Sunday, is the importance of appointments and the faithfulness of our Savior Jesus! I think that all of us, at whatever age can relate to keeping appointments:

- So, what are some examples of appointments we can think of:

Important ones...	common ones
Doctor – auto	meal time – bedtime
Church – April 15 <sup>th</sup>	devotions – hair cuts

The important ones come with more urgency: An appointment with your doctor to review a major test result because of some serious health concerns should not be missed. More common ones can be shifted around: Putting off an appointment to have your nails done for a few days would not be the end of the world. Some we look forward too, others we might rather skip!

When we have purchased tickets to see the Messiah, we would REALLY look forward to that appointment! And do all we could NOT to be late. When the dentist appointment is on the calendar, some of us look for any excuse to put it off.

- Some, like young people facing the appointment for their first driving test, might come with mixed feelings! You are scared or nervous, but can't wait all at the same time!

So why talk about appointments on Palm Sunday? It should be obvious to those who know the grand story of Salvation God revealed to us in the Bible:

- Jesus has come to Jerusalem to keep the most important appointment in all of human history!

Our text at Luke 9:51 simply said, “Now it came to pass, when the time had come for [Jesus] to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,” [to keep His appointment!]

After this, Jesus began to reveal to His disciples the agony and ultimate victory that awaited Him at His appointed time in Jerusalem!

- What all of the Gospel accounts reveal, is that there was an appointed time, for the appointed person, to carry out the appointed task.

A task revealed in the Garden and pointed to throughout the Old Testament.

God announced this appointment in the Garden when He told the Serpent that one day the seed of the woman would crush his head while he could merely wound His heel.

When the angel put a stop to the sacrifice of Abraham's son Isaac, the Angel told Abraham that God would provide Himself the sacrifice, which Jesus was preparing to do in Jerusalem: A sacrifice we know that all the Law & Prophets pointed to.

Here we need to clearly see the faithfulness of our Savior:

- Carrying out what was needed to fulfill the sure promises of the Father... Beyond anything we can imagine from a human perspective!

**SURE promises that were explained in places like Jeremiah chapter 33:**

**“19 And the word of Jehovah came to Jeremiah, saying, 20 "Thus says Jehovah: 'If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, 21 then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne," ...**

- **The prophet relates the faithfulness of Jesus to what we consider even more sure than death and taxes!**

**The children can help us here: Is the sun going to come up tomorrow morning?**

**Are you pretty sure of that?                      You should be!**

- **And yet, we have an even more sure promise that Jesus is going to Jerusalem to save His people from their sins as David’s promised Son!**

**We should reflect on that EACH and EVERY time we hear an officer of the church declare that our sins have been forgiven in the worship service.**

**We see God’s promise in Jeremiah carried out as the Gospel goes to the Gentiles in Acts 13...**

**“47 For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.' " 48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.”**

**We should reflect on that EACH and EVERY time we come to this Table remembering that Jesus is present with us to the end of the age!**

**The peace and security that we draw from this important week in the Church Calendar each year comes from reflecting on God’s control of all things, including our salvation:**

- **God does NOT miss important appointments!**

**If you do a word study on “appointment” in the Scriptures you will find it used often.**

**You would find God appointing the birth of children: Like Seth to carry on in the place of Abel or Isaac as the heir for Abraham. You will find God appointing wives for Isaac and later Boaz and others. We see God appointing judgments for the Egyptians, and even later upon His own rebellious people. We see God appointing leaders like the Priests & Kings in the nation of Israel.**

**We see God appointing pagan empires to protect God’s people in the Book of Daniel. We see God appointing many feast days and sacrifices, and appointing even the craftsmen to build the Tabernacle and Temple and then the Levites to care for them!**

- **Now we see all of this coming together for the most important appointment in history:**

**The Time of Visitation referred to by Jesus as He approached Jerusalem:**

**Luke 19:41 “Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, 'If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace!  
But now they are hidden from your eyes.**

**43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”**

**And they are without excuse: All of those feasts and sacrifices pointed to this great sacrifice that Jesus was about to offer at the appointed time. All of what those appointed Prophets, Priests and Kings pointed to would now be fulfilled by THE Prophet, Priest, and King who has come to carry out His appointed task... Saving His people from their sins!**

**On Palm Sunday we remember the Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem! Those here last year may remember how we covered all the various details that came together!**

**As they all came together loud hosannas were lifted up and those proud religious leaders told Jesus to make these people stop:**

- **And what Jesus said in response could be surprising:  
"I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."**

**And we should understand that Jesus means exactly what He says: Especially since He said the stones would IMMEDIATELY cry out!**

**The rocks themselves would cry "Hosanna to the Son of David!"**

**We know that having stones do things is not a problem for our God!**

- **Why were the stones ready to cry out on this day?**

**Because this was the appointed day for the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah! Just as God had said!**

- **When God sent His people off to Babylon, He told them they would be there for seventy years!**

**As the 70 years came to an end, Daniel knew the end was near and we find his great prayer in Chapter nine of the Book of Daniel. Daniel knew exactly what year they were sent into captivity and he could count to 70!**

**When God answers his prayers,  
He gives Daniel much more than he had requested, which God loves to do!**

- **God confirmed that His people were going to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple.**

**They would do so by a decree from King Cyrus and then God said that there would be seventy WEEKS of years from that decree until the coming of Messiah! [490 years]**

**Today many 'expert' higher critics often have long discussions trying to figure out who King Cyrus was and what year they came back!**

- **Such discussions are not surprising after twenty-five hundred years... But the people back then were keeping track!**
- **This is why everyone, including the religious leaders were expecting the Messiah, even knowing He would be born in Bethlehem.**
- **This is why Simeon knew he was holding the promised Messiah in his arms at the Temple.**

**I don't think they would have understood all the details that Daniel gives, any more than we do today:**

**But they did understand the big picture and it had been about seventy weeks of years, 490 years since the decree of Cyrus!**

- **The more important point is that Jesus knew the exact time because He is now being revealed fully as the Son of God.**
- **Jesus KNEW this was His appointed day to ride into Jerusalem!**

**Jesus came NOT to embrace and soak up the praises of the crowds**

**Jesus came at the appointed time to wage the decisive battle against the enemies of His people: Sin and death... To crush the head of Satan!**

**This battle would take a heavy toll as Jesus has been warning His disciples, which we will remember Friday night reflecting on His time on the cross.**

- **But next Sunday, we celebrate His victory over sin & death in the resurrection!**

**Jesus has come to Jerusalem as the appointed man, at the appointed time, to accomplish the appointed task of saving His people from their sins:**

- **The people who will be His Church... His Bride... the New Jerusalem:**
- **He was the right man in the right place waging the right battle for our souls!**

**We should reflect upon these truths each year of our lives as we celebrate Palm Sunday in the church calendar to remind us, and to teach our children, that we love and serve a faithful Savior who wages our battles!**

**We know this because Luke tells us that “when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,”**

**Jesus did not falter or turn back.**

**He did not stray to the left or to the right, but entered Jerusalem on that appointed day to accomplish the task that His Father has sent Him to do:**

**This is why the Apostle Paul admonished the Corinthians, to remember that all of our battles belong to the Lord:**

**II Corinthians 10:3 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”**

- **Those are some serious and perhaps overwhelming points and commands, but we should never despair...**

**When the road before seems a bit much, we remember how we learn to walk a mile, a hundred miles or a thousand miles: One step at time!**

**With that in mind, I want to take us back to the importance of keeping some of the appointments in our lives...**

**First and foremost we must remember that we have an appointment with God each week right here at 1:00pm as Pastor Liberati has stressed in his recent messages!**

**Yes, God has appointed Elders here at Church of the King and we have set up that important meeting with God where He renews covenant with us each week.**

- **We should not ignore that time, nor be late or unprepared.**

**I also trust that each of you have an appointed time to spend with God in prayer and private devotions.**

**To see the importance of that appointment, put a couple of small plants in two small pots in the window of your kitchen: Water the first each day and the second only once a week and let me know how they do.**

- **And yes, the same can be said for family devotions and quality time to converse with your spouse or children.**

**In our modern busy world with all sorts of challenges and distractions, any of these can seem overwhelming, but we must learn to do them one step at a time. You made it to church this week, so one step down!**

**Next appointment is just tomorrow and then the day after and on & on.**

**And please do not lose sight of how important each of these appointments really are in our lives**

- **There are many more, so perhaps we can save those for Mothers & Fathers days this year!**

**The writer of the Hebrews after giving a LONG list of faithful, appointment keeping people who were by no means perfect, gives us this challenge:**

**Hebrews 12: “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”**

- **Jesus kept His appointment and now we look unto Him as the author & finisher of our faith!**

#### **Communion Meditation: John 13?**

**Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. 2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.**