

A WORD ON WORSHIP

JANUARY 13, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mark 11:9-10

“Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting: “Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David; Hosanna in the highest!”

As Jesus is entering Jerusalem, He is completely surrounded by a throng of humanity cheering His arrival. Some in the multitude spread their garments in the roadway as Jesus approached. Others were cutting palm branches, the symbolic picture of joy and salvation, and spreading them in the road before the Lord. There was such great excitement and ecstasy as this multitude gave praise to the Rabbi from Galilee who taught with such authority and healed the people from every illness and even raised the dead. Their expectation that the Messiah would bring deliverance was so great, even strangers were caught up in the euphoria.

The praise that comes from their mouths is the fulfillment of prophecy. The Hebrew word HOSANNA means “save now.” They acknowledge Jesus as the Son of David. They were crying out for the Messiah’s deliverance today, to save them now. They were celebrating that their King, the Son of David, had arrived to remove the Roman oppressors and establish His Kingdom. Now at last, they thought, Jesus will manifest Himself as Conqueror on the very week of Passover where Israel commemorated the Lord’s deliverance from Egyptian bondage. What better occasion could there be for the Lord’s anointed to deliver His people from Roman tyranny.

Now fast forward almost 2,000 years. Is what is taking place in this building on this Sunday morning any different from the throngs did as Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem? The words of our songs are entirely appropriate for the occasion. We lovingly speak about the reigning Messiah to come; who will lift the yoke of injustice and usher in the rule of the Son of David today. And we acknowledge His authority as a teacher, a great healer and one who casts out demons. Listen to the words that are spoken calling Jesus Lord and Savior and feel the enthusiasm that comes when people with a common desire feed each other’s passion for the coming of a new heaven and a new earth.

But have we gathered to welcome Jesus on our terms, to bow to a king who will give us what we want? Many in churches this day welcome a Jesus who will bring them wealth, health, success and the tokens of pleasure recognized by the world. Like the crowds at gates of Jerusalem, they will loudly acclaim Jesus as King as long as they believe He will satisfy their desires. Is that why you are here this morning? Is it to prepare for the return of the King, or just a hollow and empty pretense? The words of the multitude were right as Jesus entered Jerusalem, but their hearts were not. How does your worship this morning differ from the worship of the crowds at the triumphal entry?



**“Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord!”**

Mark 11:9

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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What's Happening at Sunrise

January 2013

Jan. 13	8:45 a.m.	Mark 11:1-11 The Triumphal Entry
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	7 p.m.	Night of Community Prayer- Room 1
Jan. 15	7 p.m.	Bible Study at Pastor Andy's
Jan. 18	7 p.m.	Game Night
Jan. 20	8:45 a.m.	Mark 11:12-26 <i>Jesus and the Original Occupy Jerusalem Movement</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Jan. 22	7 p.m.	Bible Study at Pastor Andy's
Jan. 25	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship
Jan. 27	8:45 a.m.	Mark 11:27-12:12 <i>Who Does Jesus Think He Is?</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Jan. 29	7 p.m.	Bible Study at Pastor Andy's
Feb. 1	7 p.m.	Game Night

Persecution of Christians on the rise worldwide

WWW.EXAMINER.COM

The 2012 World Watch List reveals current global trends in the persecution of Christians, such as a rise in anti-Christian activity in Africa, according to Open Doors, an international organization serving Christians in more than 50 countries. Open Doors conducts an annual survey of the religious freedom Christians have globally to live out their faith in their personal lives, families, communities, congregations and national life.

"Islamism has risen in every country that experienced the Arab Spring," said Ron Boyd-MacMillan, Open Doors Chief Strategy Officer. "This has resulted in massively increased pressure on large parts of the church in the Middle East and North Africa ... Foreign jihadists now terrorize Christians in war-torn Syria, al Qaeda militants occupy northern Mali to make life impossible for local Christians, and even in countries like Libya that made a transition to a form of democracy, radical Islamist factions spread terror with impunity among the Christian minority."

The top ten countries where Christians face the most persecution are:

1. North Korea
2. Saudi Arabia
3. Afghanistan
4. Iraq
5. Somalia
6. Maldives
7. Mali
8. Iran
9. Yemen
10. Eritrea

Observations by Open Doors

- The persecution of Christians has increased worldwide in 2012
- North Korea has held the number one spot as the country with the most persecution of Christians for the last 11 years the survey has been taken. A person having a Bible may face execution or be imprisoned with several generations of his family
- Islamic extremism poses the largest threat for Christians in eight of the countries on the list: Saudi Arabia; Afghanistan; Iraq; Somalia; Maldives; Mali; Iran; and Yemen
- Persecution has dramatically increased in Africa. Mali has hit the top ten, and Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Niger are now on the list
- Extremist expressions of Islam have rapidly gained influence across the Africa. Terrorist organizations such as the Boko Haram in Nigeria have focused attacks on Christians, and persecution has increased in Ethiopia
- Islam is influencing social and economic areas in Muslim countries. Mali typifies this trend, escalating in violence after a coup in March. "Mali used to be a model country," says Eddie Lyle, CEO of Open Doors UK and Ireland. "The situation in the north was tense, but Christians and even missionaries could be active. Following the coup Christians have effectively been become 'persona non grata' and can no longer exist in northern states of the country."

Have you connected to the WEB SITE lately? www.SunriseTC.org