

# Palm Sunday

## *Living with Integrity*

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Proverbs 28:6** Better is the poor who walks in his integrity Than he who is crooked though he be rich. (NAS)

**1 Chronicles 29:17** I know, my God, that you examine our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there. You know I have done all this with good motives, and I have watched your people offer their gifts willingly and joyously.

### Honeymoon Phase (*Triumphal Entry*)

**Matthew 21:1-2, 8-10** As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem...Jesus sent two of them on ahead. <sup>2</sup> "Go into the village over there," he said. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me... <sup>8</sup> Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD! Praise God in highest heaven!" <sup>10</sup> The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. "Who is this?" they asked.

### Stand for What's Right (*Cleansing of the Temple*)

**Matthew 21:12-16** Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves!" <sup>14</sup> The blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. <sup>15</sup> The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David." But the leaders were indignant. <sup>16</sup> They asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?"

### Always Speak the Truth (*Challenge of Christ's Authority*)

**Matthew 22:15-22** Then the Pharisees met together to plot how to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. <sup>16</sup> They sent some of their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to meet with him. "Teacher," they said, "we know how honest you are. You teach the way of God truthfully. You are impartial and don't play favorites. <sup>17</sup> Now tell us what you think about this: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" <sup>18</sup> But Jesus knew their evil motives. "You hypocrites!" he said. "Why are you trying to trap me? <sup>19</sup> Here, show me the coin used for the tax." When they handed him a Roman coin, <sup>20</sup> he asked, "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?" <sup>21</sup> "Caesar's," they replied. "Well, then," he said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God." <sup>22</sup> His reply amazed them, and they went away.

### Value Integrity More Than Image (*Christ's Response to his enemies*)

**Matthew 21:23-27** When Jesus returned to the Temple and began teaching, the leading priests and elders

came up to him. They demanded, "By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?" <sup>24</sup> "I'll tell you by what authority I do these things if you answer one question," Jesus replied. <sup>25</sup> "Did John's authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human?" They talked it over among themselves. "If we say it was from heaven, he will ask us why we didn't believe John. <sup>26</sup> But if we say it was merely human, we'll be mobbed because the people believe John was a prophet." <sup>27</sup> So they finally replied, "We don't know."

## Action Steps:

Speak honestly  
Live consistently  
Commit openly  
Confess regularly

**Psalm 25:21** May integrity and honesty protect me, for I put my hope in you.

**Proverbs 10:9** People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.