PALM SUNDAY

7-Day Devotional: From Watching to Joining

Day 1 – Palm Sunday: The Choice **Scripture: John 12:12–13**
Reflection: The crowd rushes out to meet Jesus with palms and praise. It looks like faith. It sounds like devotion. But Palm Sunday is not just celebration—it is a choice. Two processions enter the city: one built on power one marked by peace. And the crowd must decide which one to follow. So must we.
Question: Where am I drawn to power instead of peace?
Practice: Name one place in your life where you feel pulled toward control or fear. Pray: *"Jesus, lead me in your way of peace."*

Day 2 – A Different Kind of King **Scripture: John 12:14–15**
Reflection: Jesus does not come like other kings. No force. No domination. No spectacle. He comes in humility. We often say we want Jesus as King— but we struggle when his way doesn't match our expectations. Because his kingdom doesn't look like the world's.
Question: Where do I want Jesus to act more like the world's definition of power?
Practice: In one situation today, choose gentleness over control.

Go Deeper

Day 3 – We Don't Always Understand **Scripture: John 12:16**
Reflection: Even the disciples didn't understand what Jesus was doing. They were close to him… and still confused. That's part of faith. We want clarity. Jesus often gives invitation. Understanding often comes later. Faith happens now.
Question: Where am I resisting trust because I don't understand?
Practice Pray: "Jesus, I trust you even when I don't understand."

Day 4 – The Turning Point **Scripture: John 12:23**
Reflection: Jesus says: "The hour has come…" The crowd thinks this is the moment of victory. Jesus says it is the moment of sacrifice. What looks like glory… is actually the cross. This is the great reversal: Power becomes surrender. Victory becomes sacrifice. Glory becomes love poured out.
Question: What am I holding onto that Jesus is asking me to release?
Practice: Name one thing you are clinging to. Offer it to God today.

Day 5 – Maundy Thursday: Love One Another **Scripture: John 13:34–35**
Reflection: On the night before the cross, Jesus doesn't organize power. He washes feet. He breaks bread. He gives a command: "Love one another as I have loved you." This is the way of his procession. Not dominance. Not self-protection. But self-giving love. And it happens in the shadow of betrayal. Which means this love is not easy. It is chosen. **Question:** Who is Jesus calling me to love in a costly way? **Practice:** Do one intentional act of humble service today—quietly, without recognition.

Day 6 – Good Friday: The Cost **Scripture: John 19:16–18**
Reflection: The procession reaches its destination. Not a throne. A cross. The King is lifted up, not in triumph, but in suffering. This is where the way of Jesus leads. And this is where many turn away. Because this is not power as we understand it. But this is love in its fullest form. Not defeating enemies but forgiving them. Not preserving self, but giving self away.
Question: Where do I resist the cost of following Jesus?
Practice: Sit in silence for 5–10 minutes today. No music. No distractions. Simply reflect on the cross.

Day 7 – Easter Sunday: The True King **Scripture: John 20:1**
Reflection: The tomb is empty. The cross was not the end. The way of Jesus the way that looked weak… the way that looked like loss… is revealed as life. The resurrection does not undo the cross, it vindicates it. It tells us: Peace is stronger than violence, Love is stronger than hate, Life is stronger than death. The procession of Jesus does not end in defeat. It leads to new creation.
Question: Where do I need to trust that God is still bringing life?
Practice Celebrate intentionally today. Speak gratitude out loud. Name where you see signs of new life.