

PALM SUNDAY – GOD’S PLAN

INTRO

Easter is a time of contrast – Slides 1-4

- Acceptance Vs Rejection
- Togetherness Vs Loneliness
- Life Vs Death
- Pain Vs Joy

1. HAPPINESS

Luke 19:36-40:

People were celebrating, rejoicing, excited & welcoming!!!

BUT...

Bill Hybels from *Willow Creek Community Church* says:

“...everyone who lined the streets had a different reason for waving those palms. Some were political activists; they'd heard Jesus had supernatural power, and they wanted him to use it to free Israel from Roman rule. Others had loved ones who were sick or dying. They waved branches, hoping for physical healing. Some were onlookers merely looking for something to do, while others were genuine followers who wished Jesus would establish himself as an earthly king. Jesus was the only one in the parade who knew why he was going to Jerusalem - to die... He had a mission, while everyone else had an agenda”

He had a mission...whilst everyone else had an agenda...

2. SADNESS

Luke 19:41-42:

Imagine Jesus’ pain...He wept because they couldn’t see it...

God’s heart was always that the Jews would welcome Jesus as the Messiah

- **God always intended Israel to be His light:**

Isaiah 49:6

Deuteronomy 7:7-8

Israel were chosen by God’s grace not on merit...

- **God always attended everyone to live in harmony with Himself:**

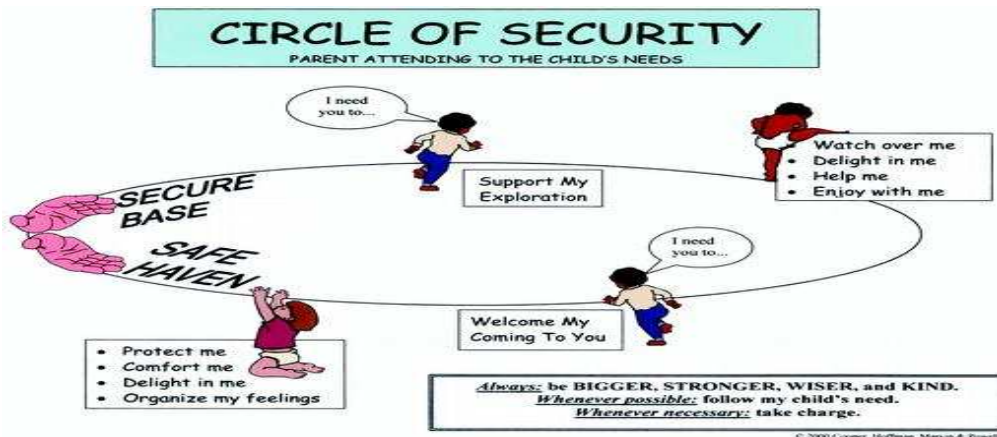
Genesis 2:15, 25; 3:8

**On Palm Sunday Jesus wept because Israel missed the point
So too has our world...**

3. ATTACHMENT THEORY – CIRCLE OF SECURITY

Story of Father & daughter in playground

Story of Jekari at Hampstead Heath – Unsure, needed assurance, companionship



Q) Does this remind us of anyone? - GOD THE FATHER!

God's IDEAL PLAN for us humans & Christians:

- We start with God the Father who loves us and send us out
- We explore the World and step out in faith within proximity of the Father
- We get worn down and can't always minister so...
- We return to be filled, encouraged & reassured – *Jesus prayed alone*

Explain

CONCLUSION

There is a life out there that God has envisaged for all people.

A life of fulfilment, joy, excitement and yet also power...

At Palm Sunday we see a God who wants:

- Jews to accept Him
- The World to accept Him

"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline"

2 Timothy 1:7

"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother"

1 John 4:18-21

We have Him the security of God to step out in faith

Let the God of Easter use you to share His Good news.

PRAY