



Abundant Life  
COMMUNITY CHURCH



*Each day this week, I (Gabe) will share a brief devotional- walking through some of the events of Holy Week, the days leading up to and including Jesus' death & resurrection, using some pictures from my trip to Israel last month.*

## **Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

Today is Palm Sunday, the day we remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem to shouts

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of, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

Take a few minutes to [read Matthew 21:1-11](#).

I took the picture above from the Mount of Olives, near Bethpage, looking at the eastern wall of Jerusalem and the temple mount. In between where I am standing and the city wall lies the Kidron Valley. During the week leading up to his crucifixion, Jesus stayed in Bethany (see map below), about 3 miles east of Jerusalem; so this was a walk he knew well.

On the surface, Jesus' final week begins on a high note as he receives a king's welcome to the Holy City. The crowds adore him, and everything appears to be set up for the Messiah to establish his reign. But Jesus is far less concerned with outward appearance than he is with the heart, and he knows all that is boiling beneath the surface on this great day.

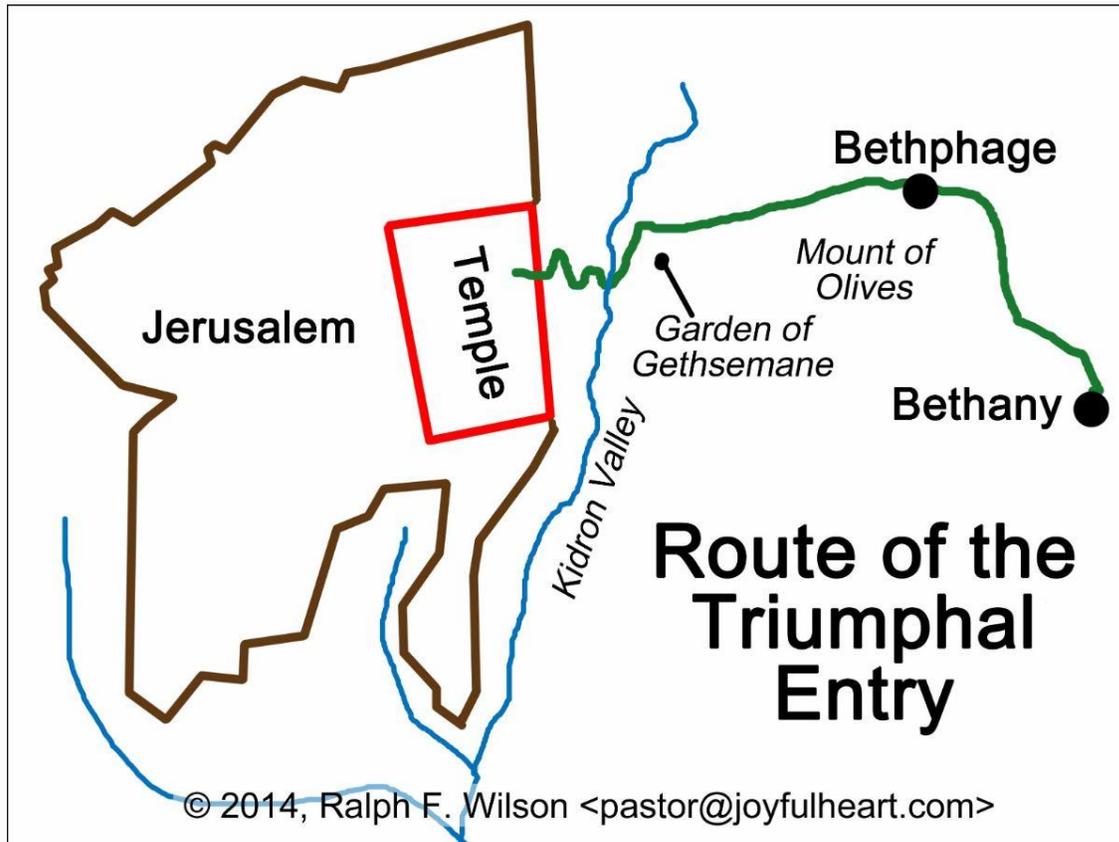
Look at the picture above again. Can't you imagine Jesus, as he rides down the Mount of Olives and through the Kidron Valley, looking up at the city with a hint of sorrow in his eyes? In fact, later in the week Jesus walked along this same road and wept over the city of Jerusalem ([Matthew 23:37-39](#)). He grieved over the hearts of the people he came to save. And here, even as he is being received as a king, Jesus knows his mission: he came to be our suffering servant.

And yet, this does not mean the crowds were wrong to worship and praise Jesus on this day. They didn't yet understand who Jesus was or the purpose of his mission, but they knew his coming was something to rejoice over. And Palm Sunday gives us an opportunity to proclaim right along with them, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" Today,

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on Palm Sunday, we kick off a week in which we remember and celebrate our Savior.

See you at church!





A view of Jerusalem from below, taken near the bottom of the [Kidron Valley](#).



A Hen found in the [Dominus Flevit Church](#), symbolizing Jesus' cry over Jerusalem - "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"