

John 12:1-11 - In Bethany  
Crowds came to see Lazarus

Jesus had credentials for a coronation  
He had raised Lazarus from the dead.

John 12:12-19 - At Jerusalem.

*'Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road... others cut branches from trees and spread them on the road'* (Mark 11:8; Matt 21:8).

Palms a part of Israel's ancient hope.

Psalms 118:25-27

Hosanna = 'save now'

A political slogan.

Palms a part of Israel's recent history.

Maccabees rebellion 167BC to 63 BC

Jesus overturns nationalistic enthusiasm.

Jesus undercuts theological expectations.

Israel's faith had become centripetal: orbiting around itself and for itself – 'Save Us'  
Israel's faith was to be centrifugal -- a worldwide faith community from all nations.

The Donkey: Zechariah 9:9 In lowly pomp he rides to die upon a cross  
Zechariah 9:10 'He will proclaim peace to the nations.'

The Pharisees Complaint  
*'Look how the whole world  
has gone after him!'* John 12:19

The Greeks' Curiosity  
*'We would like to see Jesus.'*  
John 12:20-22

Palm Sunday is less about waved palms and more about buried seed.

The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified  
Very truly I tell you unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies  
it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

John 12:23-24.

God's purpose and glory being is seen through Jesus victorious death.

John 12:25-36

The choice before the world: Glory – life – peace by the narrow way of the cross.

The choice before the church: By dying to sin and self we can become life givers.

*'Through a combination of inward struggles, trying circumstances, opposition from the enemies of the gospel, and our wrestling with God permitted weakness, we like John are learning that the seed must die before a harvest can be produced.'* (Milne)

'The only thing we need fear is that of being a grain of wheat afraid to die.' (G. Bull)