

John 12:12-19; Philippians 2:5-11; John 12:20-43

## - Following is always easier when we get to determine the route!

- The sycophant is always short-sighted and slave to their own fear for survival!  
“Sycophant (noun - sy-co-phant): A person who praises powerful people for self-gain.”
- If faithfulness only extends as far as OUR passions, interests, and fulfillment of our needs, our roots are shallow, self-serving, and ultimately short-lived.
  - Those present for the raising of Lazarus saw insurance instead of a Savior! (Jn 12:17-18)
  - The crowd cries “Blessed is the King of Israel” until He outlives His usefulness! (Jn 18:40)
  - We are either motivated by fear of what lurks in our shadows...or out of faithfulness in trusting the promises of Light dawning over them! (John 12:37-43)
- The answer to our cries for deliverance lead us THROUGH the shadows, not around them!

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” (John 12:24-25)

## - Jesus’s entry into Jerusalem confronts our cries for deliverance!

- The crowds cry out “Hosanna” as a prayer for deliverance, not a praise for this King!  
“...save me!...” (Psalm 119:94)
- Following Christ confronts our claim to His name!
  - Sycophants stay close to the throne until it challenges their sense of security.
  - Disciples stand at the foot of the cross and wrestle with the sins that held Him there.
  - Saints show out in the same humility that glorifies our Father in Heaven, not ourselves!  
“...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-8)
- Faithfulness through the pains of deliverance leads us to serve as Christ has served us!

## - Our ‘Hosannas’ are answered in the Savior who refused to first save Himself!

- We need to know the whole story to understand how it all fits together! (John 12:16)
- The slander of sycophants is silenced as the Prince of Darkness is cast out of the shadows and God declares our victory in the King of Kings! (John 12:30-32)
- Walk in light through darkness, serve humbly, and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

