

# empty

Part 1: Empty Cries

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## The Empty Cries of Palm Sunday

The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." – *John 12:12-15*

## Our Own Empty Words

There is no God.

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, their deeds are vile;

there is no one who does good. – *Psalms 14:1*

I don't need God's help.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

– *John 15:5*

But I'm a good person.

As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one;

there is no one who understands,

no one who seeks God.

All have turned away,

they have together become worthless;

there is no one who does good,

not even one."

"Their throats are open graves;

their tongues practice deceit."

"The poison of vipers is on their lips."

"Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."

"Their feet are swift to shed blood;

ruin and misery mark their ways,

and the way of peace they do not know."

"There is no fear of God before their eyes."

– *Romans 3:10-18*

(Continues on back)

**God, if you get me out of this, I promise I'll never do it again.**

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. — *Romans 7:21-25*

**I want Jesus to be my Savior but I still want control of my life.**

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" — *Matthew 7:21-23*

## Next Steps

- Attend The Shadow of the Cross this week so your soul is full as you approach Easter.
- Plan to attend one of the Good Friday services so you can reflect on how Jesus emptied himself so that you could be full.
- Invite a friend to Easter so they can hear the message that Jesus saves!

## On Your Way Home

Try driving all the way home in silence. When you get home, say out loud the most important lesson that God taught you through this weekend's message.

### Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) What's your favorite Easter tradition?
- 2) Is your Holy Week different than your usual routine? How so?
- 3) Of the three major moments that occur during Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Good Friday or Easter morning) which affects you the most? Why?
- 4) Have you ever spoken or thought any of the empty words listed above? What makes the words empty to you?
- 5) Empty words are contrasted by words of life. What words of life do you hold on to during the Easter season?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?