

Zechariah 9:9 -10, Matt 21:1-10.

The play our young ones just did ended with the words “ how do we honour him?”

There could be a multitude of ways of answering that question. But maybe the simplest, yet most complete and comprehensive answer to the question is this; **how do we honour him? We let Jesus do what he came to do.**

When the people young and old cried out “Hosanna” they were crying out “save us.” We often think of “hosanna” as a cry of worship. It’s actually a cry for help. Hosanna is made up of two Hebrew words, one literally meaning “I beg you to save”, the other “please deliver us”.

In the setting of the day, it was a cry for help from the oppression and cruelty of the Roman Emperor. One who had a powerful and ruthless army that made sure no one challenged the power and might of Rome.

Jesus was the saviour and he would save. But not in the way people were expecting and hoping for. As Jesus entered Jerusalem he gave a clue to the way he would gain victory over all that can go wrong in the world.

No war horse or chariot for Jesus. His was the way of sacrifice and service. Sacrifice and service that would take Jesus all the way to the cross. But that’s a story for next week.

Let’s just for a moment focus on this word Hosanna.

Let’s remind ourselves that we also, in our world, and our time, are just as in need of Jesus saving work as the people who cried out “Hosanna” “save us” as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

- When I think of my children, and any grandchildren that might one day come, my heart cries out to God that they be saved from the consequences of so many things that are happening in our broken and needy world.
- I wonder how hard it must be living in a world where everything you do is scrutinised. A world where influencers set impossible standards and so much is smoke and mirrors. A world where algorithms and customised advertising is designed filters to keep us clicking, buying, consuming, comparing.

I see this week that Mark Zuckerberg has been fined 375m for the addictive nature of his social media platform that has been shown to be harmful for children's mental health and making them vulnerable to sexual exploitation. He is appealing and he will probably spin his way out of it.

"Hosanna". "Save us".

- We live in a world where older folk are so often beset by anxiety that comes when it seems like the world is spiraling into chaos and it feels like the worst in history is about to repeat itself.
- We live in a world where young so often struggle with anxiety in the present and apathy in regards the future because deep down there is something of a fear that there is nothing left to dream and hope for.

We live in a world where things can change very quickly. A tweet or post on x will have markets fluctuating, costs spiralling, businesses panicking.

We live in a world where we are handing power over to a select few and are not in any way making them accountable for their actions.

We stand at the crossroads and unless the church stands and does what it is called to do, be salt and light, things will get considerably worse.

How do we honour him? We let Jesus do in our lives and in our world what he came to do.

"Hosanna." "Save us". The good news is this. There is no situation bad enough that Jesus can not turn around as we turn to him, and trust in him. That is the good news and the hope of the gospel.

God has already factored in the reality that we might cry "hosanna" one day and "crucify" another. Irrespective of our failings and our fickle tendencies, God knows. God loves. God hears. God saves.

We need to hear it and believe it. We need to boldly and unapologetically proclaim it.

My message today is short and it is simple. It helps answer the question our young ones raised as they ended their play. How do we honour him? We let Jesus do in our lives what he came to do.

Whatever you face, whatever you struggle with, young or old, hold on to the truth of who Jesus is, our resurrected and living Saviour. And everybody said in a loud voice, Amen.