



New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community

www.newliferiders.com

Gideon1520@Gmail.com

April 2022

Dear Friends,

I'm sure we all have been on rides we enjoy remembering. Spectacular hills and valleys, twists and turns that lead to gorgeous scenic vistas. How we love to reflect and reminisce, especially on cold winter days when several inches of snow on the ground prevent our taking to the roads on two, or possibly three wheels, as might be the case.

Jesus had a memorable ride, too. The narrative appears in all four Gospels. Jesus enters Jerusalem, a city full of raucous excitement. Passover, Israel's Fourth of July, was in full swing. Jewish people from all over the then known world had come to make their offerings at the Temple. The place was full of out-of-towners. It was like a gigantic international rally.

When we read about Jesus' "ride" into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday, we are startled by His sheer courage. He is a man with a price on His head, yet he rides purposefully and deliberately into the city in such a way that every eye was fixed upon Him, knowing His very entrance will provoke the religious leaders to take action against Him. The authorities had given instructions that anyone knowing Jesus' whereabouts should inform them so He could be arrested. In other accounts of Jesus' "memorable ride" the words of Zechariah, a prophet who lived roughly 500 years before Jesus, are quoted. Zechariah had spoken of Zion's King coming on a donkey's colt.

In the ancient world, during war a king would arrive on a spirited horse. If the king were coming in peace, he rode a donkey. By His dramatic actions, Jesus showed He was coming in love and peace, not as the conquering hero whom the mob expected.

As bikers, we have some lessons to learn from Jesus in this matter. We also should ride into town in such a way that people will see we have an attitude of peace. Sometimes our very appearance, which seems perfectly normal to us – our protective clothing, along with the "Hollywood Image" may have a frightening effect on the non-motorcycling public.

The Passover Pilgrims would normally have been singing Psalms 113-118 as they entered the city. It was a hymn used at the great religious festivals. The crowd joins Jesus' followers in praising Him by shouting their joyful hosannas. Psalm 118:25, 26 says, "Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord." Hosanna is a word that praises God and asks for help at the same time. It is a transliteration of a Hebrew word meaning "Save Now."

Hosanna can be our watchword; it is our cry for help. We can say or sing our Hosannas with a powerful perspective. The Lord answered the hosannas of those pilgrims processing into Jerusalem to a greater extent than they ever expected. They were looking for a King who would

throw the Roman oppressor out of the Holy City, release them from the terrible burden of taxes, feed them, provide for and protect them, and give them national dignity once again. As the week wore on the mood of the crowd changed. Why wasn't He making His move? Sure, He continued to teach in the Temple, but He retreated with His disciples to the home of His disciples to the home of friends in the burbs each evening. When was He going to take control? Why wasn't He meeting with political types who could get things done?

The rest is history. The crowds turned on Him and screamed for His crucifixion less than a week after they celebrated His triumphal ride into the city. Jesus was no helpless victim of all that happened the last week of His ministry; as Triune God, He was calling the shots. The bottom line: He rode into Jerusalem to die on the cross so we might be set free from sin and guilt and be reconciled to God; to enable us to come into a right relationship with God. Christianity is not a religion; it's a relationship! We can still shout our hosannas when Palm Sunday fades into Blue Monday and when we hit mid-week and all our plans splinter. We can still sing our hosannas because the cross provided for the atonement for the world, because there is an empty tomb, and a living Lord who can fill our emptiness.

Now we can say Hosanna, "Help Lord" knowing lasting help is on the way. Not the quick fix of political, financial and material help those pilgrims were looking for on that first Palm Sunday. Remember: Help is only a Hosanna away!

I know I pointed this out before, Easter is the longest observed and greatest annual festival on the Christian calendar. This year, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ will be celebrated on April 17. The dates for Easter vary and can fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. It is observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the spring equinox.

Let us ride through life together in hope and patience, entrusting ourselves to God, and always being faithful in prayer.

Prayerfully decide where you will be most effective. Don't miss any opportunity to make an impact for Jesus.

Please pray for the people of Ukraine and for peace in our world. Continue to pray for our country, our troops, firefighters, law enforcement officers, first responders, all those in the medical field and everyone who is serving to keep us safe!

May God smile upon your life so that the smile in your life reflects God's presence in it.

Until next time, love Jesus, be thankful and keep doing the good stuff.

*God bless.
Riding with Jesus,
Bob Dillon
www.newliferiders.com*



God bless America

Jesus said, "Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news to one and all."

Mark 16:15 (The Message)