

On Palm Sunday Christians celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. He is hailed as king. Palm Sunday is also referred to as "Passion Sunday," for it marks the beginning of Holy Week, within which we celebrate Holy Thursday, remember the suffering and death of Jesus, then conclude with the glorious Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday.

“Passion” is defined as any powerful or compelling emotion or feeling; a strong amorous feeling or desire; a strong or extravagant enthusiasm or desire for someone or anything. “Passionate” describes a person having, compelled by, or ruled by intense emotion or strong feeling.

Passion Sunday begins the holiest week of our year. During this week we will celebrate the great *passion* of our God for us. We will see how *passionate* Jesus Christ is for the salvation of all humanity. After being honored as king on Sunday, Jesus will undergo a horrific brutality which will end with his crucifixion on a cross. Jesus suffered and died because of his *passionate love* for you and me. Jesus is a man—a God—of *passion*. He has a *passion* for us.

A good question to ask yourself as we observe Holy Week is: *How passionate am I for my God?* Do you have a *passion* for Jesus, for holiness, for heaven?

We tend to be impressed by passionate people—people who go “all out” for a cause—who even put their lives on the line. People are passionate over education, animal welfare, art, music, travel, sports, etc. Sadly, many Christians show more passion for their favorite sports team, than for their Lord and Savior.

There is a story told of the great English actor William Charles Macready. An eminent preacher once said to him: “I wish you would explain to me something.” Macready asked: “Well, what is it? I don’t know that I can explain anything to a preacher.” The preacher continued: “What is the reason for the difference between you and me? You are appearing before crowds night after night with fiction, and the crowds come wherever you go. I am preaching the essential and unchangeable truth, and I am not getting any crowd at all.”

Macready’s answer was this: “This is quite simple. I can tell you the difference between us. I present my fiction as though it were truth; you present your truth as though it were fiction.”

Macready expressed passion in his acting. The preacher had little passion in his preaching.

During this Holy Week God once again demonstrates his passion for the salvation of humanity. Jesus Christ, His only Son, was beaten and crucified for us, so we can enjoy eternal life.

Jesus in his passionate love for us embraced the cross. The Son of God died for you and me to save us from our sins. This is truth, not fiction.

What is your response?