

Palm/Passion Sunday - April 10, 2022

## **Bridges of Love**

[Mark 11:1-11](#)

*<sup>9</sup> Those in front of him and those following were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup> Blessings on the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!” –Mark 11:9-10*

There was great excitement as the people saw Jesus coming into Jerusalem. Their expectations were high as they anticipated what Jesus was going to do.

Some were wanting a military leader to drive the Romans out of their land. After all, Jesus was of the lineage of the greatest warrior of Jewish history, the heir of David. For 400 years there had been a Roman military presence to keep everyone in line.

Jesus was not sent to the world to be a military leader. He was here to be an example for the world to show how we are expected to live. Throughout Jesus' ministry he showed compassion to the sick, the poor, and the outcasts of society. Jesus was more concerned about the heart / attitude of a person than he was about the status and importance the person had obtained during their life.

Jesus built bridges of love to show how love would transform a person's life. He shared love with the Samaritan woman at the well, the unclean woman with an issue of blood who touched his garment, the woman caught in adultery, the unclean lepers who approached him, tax collectors, those who were possessed by demons and multitudes of others.

Jesus was love. God's love sent to earth. As Christians, we also are to be in the business of building bridges of love!

If we are not able to show love to the unlovable, who will? If we are not Christ-like, how can we be called Christian? Jesus is concerned about the condition of our hearts. Because we are more than flesh and blood, we are to be concerned about the spiritual condition of our lives as well as that of our neighbor.

***Prayer:** Dear Lord, transform our lives with your love; help us to reflect your love to our neighbors. Show us how to build bridges of love to reduce the strife we see in this world today! Amen.*

Rich Shaffer  
First UM Church  
Parkersburg, WV

[rshaffer1@suddenlink.net](mailto:rshaffer1@suddenlink.net)

Conference Trustee, District Lead Team, Church Tech Team