Our scripture this morning comes from two places. John 12:12-15 and John 19:14-16. While you’re finding that – There was a shoplifter who was caught red-handed stealing a watch from a very exclusive jewelry store. "Look," said the shoplifter, "I know you don't want any trouble and neither do I. What do you say I just buy the watch, and we forget about this?" The manager hesitated, he really didn’t want to go to court, so he agreed. He rang up the watch and pointed to the display. The shoplifter said, "Can you show me something a little less expensive?"

**John 12:12-15 12The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: “Hosanna! ‘Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ The King of Israel!” 14Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: 15“Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey’s colt.”**

**John 19:14-16 14Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” 15But they cried out, “Away with *Him,* away with Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered “We have no king but Caesar!” 16Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led *Him* away.**

There are many people who are like the shoplifter. They’d like to steal a trip to heaven. Many will quote the parts of the Bible they like, they agree with, they find pleasant, but they don’t want to talk about the one decision we all must make. They’re looking for something less expensive than their full submission to Jesus – it’s a little more than they wanted to spend. Yet, that’s the price… if we believe that God is Love, then we must also believe that Christ is King.

It’s the Easter season. Today is Palm Sunday. I chose our scripture this morning to demonstrate the fickle nature of man. Our scripture bookends Passion Week! We see Jesus journey from celebrated to crucified in one short week, from praised to pitied in one short week, from hailed to nailed in one short week, the fickle nature of man is absolutely amazing.

In John 12:12-15, Christ is hailed. He’s hailed the conquering King, Hosanna in the Highest! The crowd cries out for His blessing. Zechariah 9:9 is fulfilled – Zechariah prophesied more than 550 years before Jesus - Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. More than 550 years later, Jesus comes riding on the foal of a donkey. Can’t you feel the excitement as so many crowd the way, spreading garments in the road, spreading palm branches and calling Him King of Israel. He is hailed, He is hailed, He is hailed.

But, Passion Week proceeds. In John 14:6, Jesus reveals Himself - I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. Jesus spends much of the week preparing His disciples for the betrayal to come, praying for them, comforting them, knowing that the events of John 18 are just ahead. He knows He’ll be betrayed, He knows He’ll be denied, He knows He’ll be convicted, and He knows He’ll die. Jesus knew He’d die a horrible, undignified, humiliating death – if you’ve never read up on death through crucifixion, I encourage you to do it this week – but Jesus also knew His Father and He accepted His task.

Remember that, at the beginning of the week, the people cried out that Jesus was the King of Israel. He was hailed! Listen to John 19:14-15 Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” 15But they cried out, “Away with *Him,* away with Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered “We have no king but Caesar!”Less than a week, He is no longer hailed, but they cry out for Him to be nailed… nailed to a cross… each nail driven by the sin of man… into the only sinless Man to have ever walked this earth. Many who were in the crowd to celebrate His arrival now participate in His denial – Crucify Him, Crucify Him! John 19:16 Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away.

In this coming week, we need to meditate on the price Jesus paid. We need to realize that what 2 Corinthians 5:21 tells us is true For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. When I was a little boy, I wanted a pocket knife I’d seen so badly. I was only 6. I had a fifty-cent piece, not near the price of that knife. My Daddy bought that knife and he showed it to me. He asked if I’d be willing to trade my fifty-cent piece for the knife. He said, “I’ve always wanted a half dollar just like that.” He gave me something worth far more than what I traded him. Jesus gave me His immeasurable righteousness in return for my sin-filled, filthy heart!

Now, I have to tell you a secret… Jesus arose! The world took Him from hailed to nailed, but God raised Him and restored Him to Hailed!! Hailed Ruler of all creation! Hailed Savior! Hailed Conqueror of the grave! Hailed Victor over the power of Satan and all his servants! Hailed King of all kings, Lord of all lords, every knee will bow, every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. There will be no confusion in the crowd when the dead in Christ shall rise… we shall hail Him as our eternal High Priest.