

Palm Sunday
When the Cheering Stops
Matthew 21:8-11

Momentum is defined as the force or speed of movement. We want it for our sports teams in their various arenas of play. We want it for our organizations so that we might gain market share. We want it in our personal lives when things seem to be going right. We want to think that we are “gaining ground” in every aspect of our lives. But what happens when momentum changes?

1. Jesus rode in a processional of triumph.

2. Jesus listened as the cheering stopped.

3. Jesus walked in a processional of suffering.

As we follow Jesus to the foot of the cross this week, stay there. It is at the foot of the cross where we realize that God loves us. Isaac Watts put it this way, “At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light and the burden of my heart rolled, it was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day.” Jesus asks us to walk the way of the cross now, so that we will someday experience the joy of walking in the way of triumph.

For further consideration:

Take some time to remember the moment or series of moments when you first realized that Christ had come into your life. Remember the joy. Remember the fresh start. Remember the enthusiasm. Now consider whether or not the cheering has stopped. Have there been times when you have felt distant from Christ, unable or unwilling to cheer? Have there been times when you couldn't stop cheering if wanted to? How much do the circumstances of your life or the choices you make contribute to the enthusiasm of being a Christian? What things rob your affections for Christ? What things stir your affections for Christ? How can you offer all of these things to Christ this week in a way that will allow you celebrate the joy of a resurrected Savior?