

The New Testament Church
The Cross and the Crown – John 12:1-19; (Hebrews 11:1)
 Pastor Paul Jehle – April 2, 2023

- I The distinction between faith and hope – the key to the cross and the crown
- A. The definition of Hope – “confident expectation in the future”
 1. Romans 8:24-25 – Hope that is seen (already happened) is not hope
 2. Hope is a confident expectation that one day it will happen (examples)
 - B. The definition of Faith – “trust in Jesus that He will sustain you now”
 1. Hebrews 11:1 – Faith is the evidence of things not seen – the substance of things hoped for – the *substance* is faith which gets us to fulfill our hope (victory)
 2. Faith trusts in a person – it is as powerful as its object – ours is in Jesus Christ!
 3. We must recognize that faith in Christ is the means of taking up our cross
 - C. *No Cross, No Crown* – William Penn’s treatise of 1668 (Proverbs 13:12)
 1. The dangers of a “crossless” Christianity – quote page ix, 2 – hope deferred
 2. Embracing the cross is self-denial – quote pages 25-26 – a tree of life
- II The Cross and the Crown in the context of Palm Sunday – John 12:1-19
- A. The **Road** – *of faith as they followed the person of Jesus* in difficulty before arriving
 1. It is rocky and hilly from Jericho to Jerusalem
 2. They ascended to Jerusalem – and then it bursts into sunlight and you see the Temple
 - B. v. 1-8 - The **Day** – March 5, 444 BC (Artaxerxes) to March 30, 33 AD (Daniel 9:24-27)
 1. The day the Messiah would be presented to Israel – Lamb Selection Day
 - a. Lamb chosen by father; examined four days - *their lamb* (then chosen by Priests)
 - b. On Passover the lamb was to be sacrificed whole, no bones broken (as Christ was)
 - c. The lambs tied to altar at 9 AM, killed by 3 PM (the time Christ was on the cross)
 2. Hope of resurrection - Bethany, Saturday; Jesus ate a meal with Lazarus
 3. Mary anoints him for his “burial” – declaring victory by faith before hope is realized
 - C. v. 9-13, 16-19 – The **Crowd** forms in hope
 1. Some were *with Jesus* – disciples from Bethany – they would lay their garments down
 - a. They were laying down their lives – but did not understand the cross
 - b. They would look back after his resurrection (hope fulfilled) and realize the truth
 2. Some came *to Him* – from Jerusalem – strangers, pilgrims, visitors – with palms
 - a. They came being drawn by miracles (Lazarus)... didn’t understand the cross
 - b. Palms symbolized victory (Psalm 92); engraved on temple (1st Kings 6:29)
 - c. Revelation 7:9 every nation waves palm branches before the Lamb! (victory)
 - d. Shouting “Hosanna” – *hoshiya na* – “help, save us now” – blessed is he (Ps 118:25)
 - e. The children would shout hosanna as He came into the Temple (Luke 19:40)
 3. Others came to *oppose Him* – Pharisees and their followers came with their anger
 - a. They wanted to kill Lazarus so that “the world” would no longer seek Him
 - b. Evil wants to “kill our faith in Christ” and dash our hope of future victory
 - D. v. 14-15 – The **Donkey** – ridden by **faith** in the person of Christ
 1. Zechariah 9:9 – prophesied around 500 BC that the King would ride on a donkey
 2. He came *through humility and suffering* – the animal of Israel; the cross before crown
 3. “Meek and lowly” with faith in His Father – “for the joy set before Him” (Heb. 12:2)
 - E. Let us bolster our hope of victory with personal faith and trust in Christ