

From Hosanna to Hysteria: The Roller Coaster of Faith

Good morning, everyone! Today, we are embarking on the wild ride that is Palm Sunday—starting with a triumphant parade and ending with a Passion so dramatic, even Shakespeare would say, “Tone it down a little.” It’s like going from the Super Bowl parade to being benched for the rest of the season.

1. Palm Waving and Easy Praise

We all love a good celebration. Jesus enters Jerusalem, and everyone’s waving palms like it’s the ancient equivalent of holding up your phone flashlight at a concert. “**Hosanna!**” they shout.

But here’s the kicker: many of these same people switch to “**Crucify him!**” faster than a teenager switches from loving their favorite song to hating it because it’s “overplayed.”

It’s easy to praise Jesus when He’s riding high. But as **St. Bernard of Clairvaux** said, “*To serve God is to reign; but to serve God in trials is to triumph.*” The real test of faith isn’t in the parade—it’s in the Passion.

2. Peter’s Courage... or Lack Thereof

Peter is basically the Church’s very first “**Yes man.**” He makes bold claims of loyalty: “*Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!*” (Luke 22:33). And you can almost hear Jesus saying, “Oh, Pete... that’s cute.”

Sure enough, Peter’s loyalty disintegrates like a cheap tortilla the moment he’s put under pressure. A servant girl says, “*Aren’t you one of His disciples?*” And Peter, like someone caught with a double cheeseburger on Good Friday, says, “*Nope! Never heard of Him!*”

As **St. Jerome** pointed out, “*Many begin well, but only a few persevere.*” And Peter’s perseverance lasted about as long as a New Year’s resolution.

3. The True Cost of Discipleship (Or, Why We’re All Like Peter)

Peter’s mistake is our mistake: we love to make grand promises to God, only to collapse at the first sign of difficulty. As **St. Catherine of Siena** bluntly put it, “*Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring.*”

We prefer the “Hosanna!” moments—the praises, the comforts, the blessings. But the cross? Not so much. It’s like signing up for a marathon because you like the free T-shirt but refusing to do the running.

4. Failing Spectacularly: God’s Specialty

Here’s the good news: **Peter failed. Epicly. And Jesus still made him Pope.** So, if you’re feeling like a failure sometimes, welcome to the club! The Church is filled with people who stumble but don’t quit. As **St. Ambrose** said, “*God does not call the qualified; He qualifies the called.*”

Peter denied Jesus three times, but the moment he repented, Jesus made him the leader of the apostles. If that’s not divine comedy, I don’t know what is. We stumble, but **God is a master at writing straight with crooked lines.**

5. What We Can Apply: Embrace the Cross with Humor and Humility

Look, the point is not to pretend we don't fail. The point is to keep trying, keep repenting, and keep returning to the Lord. As **St. Philip Neri**, the patron saint of humor, put it: *"The cheerful are much easier to guide in the spiritual life than the melancholy."* So if you feel like you're failing, **laugh a little**, dust yourself off, and try again.

We're all going to mess up. But the difference between a saint and a sinner is that **the saint keeps getting back up**. As **St. John Vianney** said, *"The saints did not all begin well, but they all ended well."*

Fail Forward and Never Give Up

This Holy Week, let's not just wave palms and cheer when it's convenient. Let's walk with Jesus even when it's uncomfortable. And when we fall—as we all do—let's do it like Peter. Mess up big, repent big, and then **love even bigger**.

In the words of **St. Francis Xavier**, *"Many, many people hereabouts are not becoming Christians for one reason only: there is nobody to make them Christians."* And that's on us. To evangelize, to bring people to Jesus, we have to keep getting up. And maybe, just maybe, be willing to look a little ridiculous doing it.

So, the next time you feel like you've let God down, **remember Peter**—the Apostle with a big heart and an even bigger foot constantly stuck in his mouth. And yet, he became a saint. If God could work with Peter, He can work with you and me.