

The Road to Redemption

Palm Sunday 2016

It was 25 years ago, on Feb. 27, 1991, at the height of Desert Storm, that the **46-year-old Ruth Dillow** was asked to come into her boss's office.

- It was a devastating sight... two men in uniform with solemn faces. They **didn't have to say a word**... but what they told her broke her heart:
- Her 20-year-old son, **Clayton Carpenter, Private 1st Class**, had stepped on a cluster mine in Kuwait & was dead.

Not surprisingly, she dropped to the ground in shock. She later wrote these words to a friend:

- *"I can't begin to describe my grief & shock. It was almost more than I could bear. For 3 days I wept. For 3 days I expressed anger & loss. For 3 days people tried to comfort me, to no avail because the loss was too great."*

But 3 days after she received that message, the telephone rang. The voice on the other end said, **"Mom, it's me. I'm alive!"**

- She could hardly believe it. Just to be sure, **she even began to ask him questions** that only he would know the answers to.
- She said, *"I laughed, I cried, I felt like turning cartwheels, because my son whom I had thought was dead, was really alive. It's hard to believe that anyone could ever understand how I felt in that moment."*
- Of course, she's right. I couldn't even imagine what that was like.

But, of course, we're here this morning because a large number of people had a similar experience 2000 years ago.

- It **started on that first Palm Sunday** as Jesus **made his way from the town of Bethany** the back of a colt.
- And as He approached Jerusalem, crowds of people began shouting, *"Hosanna, Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!"* **as they laid out their coats** on the ground in front of Him, **waving palm branches** as a sign of victory that their Messiah had come.

- Of course, as much as we refer to this as Jesus' "Triumphal Entry," **He knew He was riding to His death.**

On **Monday**, Jesus turns over the money changer's tables in the temple courts and faces down the chief priests.

- On **Tuesday** Jesus announces the date of his execution and debates the religious leaders as Judas secretly contracts to betray Jesus.
- On **Wednesday**, Jesus warns against the religious leaders as He mourns Jerusalem's rejection of Him.

On **Thursday**, Jesus meets with His disciples for Passover. It would be their Last Supper together.

- Late on **Thursday in early Friday**, Jesus is arrested and violently beaten.
- By 9am, having been sentenced by Pilot and tortured by his guards, **Jesus began carrying His Cross** down that road to redemption to Calvary.

And from noon till 3pm, with all of His disciples having abandoned Him except John, Jesus remained there at Calvary, nailed to a cross.

- Those around Him... His mother, John, Mary, the Roman Guards... **they witnessed His pain** as He cried out, "*My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?*"
- They listened as **He bowed His head & said**, "*It is finished! Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit.*"
- And, at 3pm, **at the very time the sacrificial lamb was being sacrificed** in the Temple, the perfect Lamb of God had died for the sins of the world... for my sins and yours.

They watched as **His body was taken from the cross & buried**. All their hopes & dreams now buried with Him.

- **Friday & all day Saturday** they mourned, until finally, on "*the first day of the week, early in the morning,*"
- as Scripture says, some women **made their way along the path** that led to His tomb.

- But when they arrived, they found that the enormous stone protecting Jesus' tomb had been rolled away. And an angel there told them,

“You’re looking in the wrong place. You’re looking for Jesus among the dead. He is not dead. He is alive. He is risen, even as He said!”

- They thought He was gone... **but He was alive!** He is risen!
- It’s what we’re here to celebrate this Palm Sunday morning... that **the One who chose to walk that Road to Redemption** was RISEN! **“Christ is risen!”** He is risen indeed!

In **1 Corinthians 15:3-6**, Paul writes ***“Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers...”***

Hearing her son’s voice on the other end of that phone changed Ruth Dillow’s life...

- And **seeing their risen Savior** *not only* **changed the lives** of Jesus’ friends & followers,
- but the lives of **countless millions through history**, including many of you here this morning.
- Truth is, countless others are desperate today for this kind of genuine change in their lives.

All around us, people from every walk of life are asking the same kinds of questions... wondering how they can experience real change.

- How can I be more content? How can I be **healthier or better off** than I am now?
- How can I experience **more peace & less stress?** How can I become **less addicted & more fulfilled?**
- How can I find **real purpose & meaning** for my life? In short, **how can I change my life for the better?**

There’s never been a time in history where the **question of life-change** has been asked **more frequently** and with **more urgency** than in 21st century America.

- One way to discover the question **people are seeking answers for** is to simply log into Amazon.com and put the question in the search box under “books”.
- Do you know how many current book titles there are **that reference life-change** in the title?

How many do you think there are? 10,000? 15,000? 20,000? Actually, **there are 111,670 current book titles** that offer the **promise of life change**.

- I won't read all 111,670 titles to you, though, **let me share just a few** from Amazon.com:
- Now, if you're a little on the lazy side, you can buy ***“Change Your Life Without Getting Out of Bed: The Ultimate Nap Book.”***
- If you're really lazy, you can buy ***“How to Change Your Entire Life By Doing Absolutely Nothing.”*** I'm not making this up!

A few other big sellers on Amazon include: ***“Change Your Aura, Change Your Life – A Step-By-Step Guide to Unfolding Your Spiritual Power.”***

- There's ***“Change Your Story, Change Your Life: Using Shamanic and Jungian Tools to Achieve Transformation.”***
- Or the more popular book called, ***“Change Your Underwear, Change Your Life – Quick and Easy Ways to Make Your Life Fun and Exciting.”***

I mean, **does anyone really think** that the deep issues of your life are going to change **by changing your underwear?**

- Or **rearranging the furniture** in your living room, or **napping?**
- Are we not missing something... something far more foundational?

I've shared a story before with you from **Tony Evans** where he talks about this **big crack that ran down his bedroom** wall.

- It was awful! So he hired a painter who came in to re-spackle and repaint his bedroom wall.
- Everything seemed fine. He paid the painter and was happy with the job.

A few months later the cracks all started to reappear. So he called in a sheetrock guy to come and fix the wall once and for all.

- But after pulling away a small section of sheetrock to see what was going on, he looked up at Tony Evans and said,
- *“Listen... you really don’t have a problem with cracks in your wall. **The problem is that your foundation is shifting.**”*
- He said, “I can come in and fix these cracks in your wall, **but within a few months** you’ll begin seeing more cracks again.
- So, **unless you repair the foundation of your house** you’ll have keep repairing these cracks over and over again.”

You see, so many people are trying to fix the **cracks in their own lives...** in their **relationships**, with **their kids**, and in **their families...**

- spending millions and millions of dollars on self-help and therapy books every.
- We **work and strain to fix the cracks...** but the cracks always seem to come back because **the problem is at the foundation.**
- The foundation of our lives needs to be fixed, if we are going to experience real life change... if we’re going to experience **real joy... real hope... real peace...** and **real purpose** in our lives.
- But how is that kind of change gonna happen?

You see, when Jesus walked out of that tomb 2000 years ago, He not only demonstrated the greatest act of sacrificial love in history,

- But demonstrated that, through Him, real change... the kind of change **that begins with a new foundation...** CAN happen.
- Embracing Jesus in your life and walking with Him can change you... **not by plastering over the cracks** but by changing the very foundation your life is built on.

In fact, in the time we have remaining this morning, **I’d like to talk about how the lives of three very different people** were changed as they followed Jesus along that **road of redemption** to the empty tomb.

And the **first person I’d like to look at is Mary Magdalene.** In the **Gospel of John 20:1-2**, we read that

- ***“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,***

Mary of Magdala went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

- *So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loves (John's description of himself), and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have put Him!'*

Now, it's likely that Mary Magdalene was financially pretty well off. For one, the area that she was from, Magdala, was a wealthy community.

- It would be like saying "Mary from Bel Air" or "Mary from the Upper East Side."
- We also know (from the Gospels) that **she provided Jesus and the other disciples some financial support** as they went around Israel announcing the Good News of the Kingdom.

And yet, Mary Magdalene met Jesus while she was in a pretty severe crisis... **tormented by forces within herself that she could not fix.**

- It says that Jesus cast seven demons out of her.
- There are some of you sitting here this morning that **have things in your life like Mary Magdalene**, that you cannot fix.
- There may be forces within you – an **addiction, depression, or struggles with anxiety** that you desire to be free of...
- just as Mary Magdalene desired to be set free... but in spite of the self-help books, **you can't seem to really break free of these things on your own.**

You may have a feeling right now of being overwhelmed by your life situation...

- and **you're working as hard** as you can to patch up the cracks as they appear.
- **But there are too many cracks and they go too deep.** *So, let me ask you a question.*
- Rather than re-spackling those areas of your life, is it possible you need a new foundation?
- Well, let me show you what it was that changed Mary Magdalene's life.

In **John 20:10**, we read this. *Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.*

In **verse 13**, *“They asked her, ‘Woman, why are you crying?’ ‘They have taken my Lord away,’ she said, ‘and I don’t know where they have put him.’ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ‘Woman,’ he said, ‘why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?’*

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means Teacher).”

We find Mary standing outside of the tomb of Jesus weeping... weeping because the person who loved her is dead and she thinks his body has been stolen.

- She is weeping because she thinks the **only One** in this world who ever **treated her as being valuable**;
- The **only One** in this world whoever **gave her a sense of dignity**; The **only One** whoever **made her feel worthwhile** and **gave her back her self-esteem** is dead.
- And to compound it, His body has been stolen!

So, **what changed Mary?** It wasn't a “what” that changed her, it was a “who.” Listen to Jesus' words in **verse 15**...

- *“Woman,” He said, “why are you are crying? Who is it you are looking for?”*
- Jesus **then** looks right at her... and I bet a big grin begins to appear on His face... knowing that she's about to get it!
- We're told that Jesus then calls to her by her name. And, when she heard her name, *“She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’”*

For Jesus, we're all on a first-name basis. I mean... what He did on the Cross, **He did for each and every one** of us.

- You see, change can really begin to happen in our lives when our understanding of God **shifts from a set of impersonal, distant ideas and philosophical concepts...**
- To a **rich understanding of Jesus** as a living, real person with whom you can have a deep, intimate relationship with today.

It's why you hear the expression that Christianity isn't a religion (at least it was never supposed to be).

- Instead, **it's a personal relationship with Jesus**, a risen Savior. You see, **that's what changed Mary...**
- not just a relationship with a **deeply compassionate & powerful man...** but a **Savior who had now conquered sin and death!**

Just two days earlier, on **FRIDAY**, Jesus was executed by Rome because they thought He was a threat to their control.

- Watching Jesus suffering on the Cross... it was the worst day of Mary's life.
- But, **what looked like a horribly tragic ending** to such a powerful life **turned out to be the greatest sacrifice of love** in the history of our world.

Saturday was the day of silence and mourning on the earth. Mary and His other followers were afraid; some were in hiding... others went home. **All hope seemed to be lost.**

- Satan believed He had won... that sin & death were forever his.
- But, **on SUNDAY!** On Sunday, the **world changed** forever as the **stone got rolled away.**

On Sunday, **death lost its sting**. The **grave lost its victory**. On Sunday, **hell was undone**. **Death was dethroned**. **Darkness was derailed**. The **devil was defeated**.

- On Sunday, the **tomb was emptied** and **hope was restored**.
- On Sunday, **faith was vindicated**. The **prophets were validated**.
- The **authorities were infuriated** while the **disciples were invigorated**.
- On Sunday, **sin lost**. **Shame died**. **Hope soared**. **Love won**.

On Sunday, you got **something beyond yourself to live for**; Something **beyond your life to die for**; Something **beyond your death to hope in**.

- In every way, this was the **central event** of history... the **greatest victory** over the **darkest enemy** by the **noblest hero** for the **loftiest cause** in all of human history.
- If there was ever anything in this sorry, dark world worthy of celebration, it is **that Jesus Christ is Risen!**
- Everything changed because of that Sunday... but **not just for Mary Magdalene**, a well-to-do woman in crisis...

2. **But also Thomas, the hard-headed skeptic.**

After being the first person to see Jesus, Mary ran as quickly as she could to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive.

- To say they were skeptical would be an understatement. In fact, they probably dismissed her... Until Jesus appeared to them.
- And when He did, Matthew writes that Jesus appeared to them saying, "Greetings!"

Now, **that word for "Greetings!"** was a very common word that's simply the informal way people said **"Hey, what's up?"** in those days.

- Now, I don't know about you... but, under the circumstances, doesn't **"What's Up?"** seem a little too lighthearted?
- I mean, if it were me, I probably would have made a grand entrance... maybe **floating above the stadium at the Superbowl half-time show...** *"It is I, Jesus... I have RISEN!"*

I've probably shared this before, **but one pastor** was sharing this **"story of Jesus' first appearing"** with a bunch of young kids...

- and he asked the question... *"What were Jesus' first words after He was raised from the dead?"*
- Well, **a little girl raised her hand, "I know! I know!"** she said. Jesus said, **"Ta Da!"**
- But, in fact, Jesus says, "What's up!" You can just see **the kind of intimacy that Jesus enjoys** with those who follow Him!
- We're then told that His disciples **immediately** grabbed a hold of Him and began worshipping Him!

But, we read in **John 20:24**, **“Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.”**

- *When the other disciples told him that they had seen the Lord, he declared, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.”*
- *A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”*

Truth is, there are a lot of people who approach Easter with their critical faculties working overtime.

- Maybe you approach the whole subject of Jesus’ resurrection **with the desire for some proof or evidence**; Something that will satisfy your mind and your intellect.
- If that’s you, then you’re in luck because, **amongst all the world’s religions**,
- only Christianity (*and Judaism, from which it emerged*) **claims that it is verifiable through historical investigation.**
- And **it is this capacity to be tested and verified** that has led many skeptics over the centuries to faith in Christ.

In the 1930’s, for example, a **rationalistic English journalist** named **Frank Morison** attempted to discover the real Jesus.

- He was **convinced that historical investigation** would undermine the faith that was taught in many churches.
- Morison was dogmatically opposed to the miraculous stories that we read in the gospels.
- He believed that Jesus was a noble, good man, whose teachings had been transformed into a kind of Christian “mythology”.

As he writes in his book, he decided to look at the last phase in the life of Christ and to **strip it of its “primitive beliefs” and “dogmatic suppositions”**, to **discover Jesus as he really was.**

- Well, as Frank Morison dug into the evidence, he came to a shocking conclusion that led to a much different book than he intended to write.
- In fact, he proceeded in his book, to write one of the **best defenses for the resurrection of Christ that has ever been written.**
- Hundreds of thousands of copies of his book, “*Who Moved the Stone?*” have been sold!

In the late 19th century, **an archeologist and professor** at Oxford & Cambridge **named Sir William Ramsey**, had **earned awards from prestigious institutions** all over the world.

- He was a profound skeptic of Christianity... convinced the Bible was fraudulent.
- Well, Sir Ramsey spent years **heading up an archeological expedition in Asia Minor (in Turkey) & Palestine** to prove that the Bible was not some book from heaven,
- but **rather was written by later Christians** who put all this mythology together.

He **spent 15 years** literally digging into the ground and **traveling around to the very spots** that the Bible claimed the apostle Paul traveled to.

- In 1896 he published a large volume titled “*St. Paul, The Traveler and The Roman Citizen.*”
- Like Morison, **the book Ramsey would write** looked nothing like the book he set out to publish.

The book caused **absolute dismay among skeptics** around the world because Sir William Ramsey detailed down to the minutest point,

- the accuracy of the New Testament in recording the events that it speaks about.
- For Ramsey, **the evidence was so overwhelming** that he became a committed follower of Christ.

Now, maybe some of you, at some point, have been told not to ask any questions... to “just believe.”

- That’s honestly some pretty bad advice! In fact, I would

- challenge any hard-headed skeptic to investigate... to dig into the evidence, and search the issue out.
- I think that **this kind of thoughtful exploration of historical truth** is exactly what can lead those, like Thomas, to genuine faith.

Of course, sometimes, **the issue is not intellectual doubt. Sometimes the issue is really locked into a person's will.**

- In other words, because of where they've been or where they're at, **they simply don't want to believe.**
- In **verse 27**, Jesus says to Thomas, "***Stop doubting & believe.***"
- Now Jesus knows that **you can't make someone believe something.**
- But, in this case, Jesus isn't speaking to intellectual doubt... but rather, to Thomas' ***will.***

So, what could make you a "willful doubter"? Well... **maybe its because you haven't been all that impressed** with those who claim to follow Jesus!

- Perhaps the person from work, **who always invites you to church**, is the one who's always taking the office supplies.
- Maybe you've seen **one too many judgmental** or hyped-up preachers on TV... and you figure... **if that's what it looks like to follow Jesus...** than I'm out!
- Maybe you grew up in church but you were hurt there... perhaps by **hypocrisy** or **legalism** or **controlling leadership.**

If any of these things have caused you invalidate the reality of Jesus, than **just know that**, for many of us,

- **we too have welcomed the Risen Savior in our lives in spite of**, rather than, because of, some pesky Christians.
- But, at the same time, **there are good Christians**, millions of them, who ***do good... who are loving... who live sacrificial, caring lives.***

They aren't perfect, but there are millions of people **who do live out the reality of their faith...** people who really have been changed.

- There may be people in your own immediate circle whom

- you've seen changed.
- Don't let past **bad experiences** with some **bad Christians** or **bad churches** keep you from trusting in Christ.
 - Jesus died and rose again so you could walk in friendship and intimacy with Him.

So... we've looked at a **well-to-do woman in crisis** and a **man known as a bona fide skeptic**... both changed at a foundational level by the Risen Savior.

- And I'd to close now by looking at man who, in spite of his strength, experienced a **terrible moment of failure** in his life.

3. **Peter: A Man's Man who had Failed Jesus.**

We read in **John 21** that, after the resurrection, **Peter went out on his fishing boat** with some of the other disciples to throw out some nets... but **by early morning**, they still hadn't caught anything.

One of the interesting things about Jesus' band of followers is that none of them could be characterized as "religious-types."

- Instead, Jesus' disciples were **those who own their own businesses**. A few were from bigger cities while others were from small towns. Some **educated, others uneducated**.
- There was one who worked for the **government** and another who wanted nothing more than to overthrow the government.

And then you have a **simple fisherman like Peter**... a guy who, when you read about him in the gospels, seemed to **go after life in a big way**.

- He was probably a **big man** physically... had a **big mouth**... and a **big heart**.
- He was probably the guy who liked to sit around the fire telling **the kind of off-color jokes** that you shouldn't laugh at, but are really funny!

But Peter, **this big man** with a **big laugh** and a **big heart**, **failed Jesus miserably**.

- If you remember, on the previous Friday, during their last Passover supper together, Jesus told the disciples that He would

- be betrayed.
- So, Peter replies in **Matt. 26:33**, that “*even if everyone else turns from you, I never ever would, Jesus.*”

But, “*I tell you the truth,*” Jesus answered, “*this very night before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.*”

- *But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you.”*
- As it turned out, during Jesus’ trial, Peter did deny Jesus three times. And **when he denied Him a third time**, Jesus happened to be there.
- Their eyes caught... and **Peter could see in Jesus’ eyes, the hurt & the pain & sadness** of having his trusted friend turn his back on him.

Imagine what it was like for Peter. They had been SO close. And yet, the last memory Peter had of Jesus **was Jesus looking at him with pain-filled eyes.**

- Afterwards, we’re told, **Peter went out and wept.** I mean, how do you live with that kind of regret?
- What self-help book is going to wash that guilt & shame away?
- Where do you find **forgiveness** and **restoration** and **redemption** when you’ve **failed God & failed others & denied what you knew was right?**

In **John 21:4**, we read that “*Early in the morning (again, after the resurrection), Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize it was Jesus. He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your nets on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did they were unable to haul in the nets because of the large number of fish.*

When the resurrected Jesus comes to Peter this time, **He comes to him the way He first came** to him three years earlier when He asked Peter to follow Him.

- He’s **standing on the same shore**, the Sea of Galilee. The disciples had been fishing all night and caught nothing.

- It is the **same situation**, the **same circumstance**. Jesus issues the **same command** as three years before, “put out the nets.”
- He directs them to where the fish are... and they get the same big catch.

It's like Christ is saying, “**Peter, let's go back in time**. Let's go back to where our relationship began.”

- “Let me remind you that I never called you to be a great man. I **never asked you to be flawless**.
- I **never asked you to carry the world** on your shoulders.
- I **never asked you to be more loyal** than any of the other disciples. I never called you to be better than they are.
- *All I ever asked of you was that you follow Me.*”

And **that's all** Jesus ever asks of any of us. He doesn't call us to be **flawless** or to **fix the whole world** or to **manage every single problem** of everyone around us.

- He **doesn't even ask us to fix ourselves**... to repair all the cracks in the walls of our lives by ourselves.
- All he says to us is, “*Follow me. Give your life to me. And I will not only fix you up... but I'll make you new... at the foundational level of your life.*”

We read in **verse 9**, “**When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it and some bread.**”

- He had a charcoal fire made... just like the one Peter was warming his hands against in **Luke 22:55**... when Jesus overheard Peter denying Him.
- He's recreated for Peter the **moment He first chose to walk** with Jesus... **and now**, the **moment He denied Jesus** a third time.

And then, in **verse 15**, He asks Peter straight out... “*Simon, son of John, do you truly love me?*”

- In fact, Jesus asked Peter this same question three times... “*Peter, do you love me?*”

- You see, Jesus knew that Peter loved Him... but **Peter's guilt & shame were weighing so heavy on him** that he kept doubting himself.
- You see, in spite of Peter's failing, Jesus always knew the cry of Peter's heart.

When Jesus was sharing the Passover Meal with His disciples... He told them that **one of them would betray Him** that next day.

- But, let me ask you... how many of Jesus's disciples denied Him after He was arrested? All of them, except John.
- And yet, even though they would all deny Him out of fear, Jesus knew their hearts... He knew their love for Him.
- In other words, even when you fail miserably, Jesus knows your heart. He's a redeemer God... a forgiving God.

Instead of throwing some **more spackle over our cracked walls**, He **reaches down into the foundation of our lives...**

- And He **forgives...** He **removes the guilt & shame...** and He **gives us a new identity** as His sons and daughters.
- Like Mary Magdelene & Thomas, **Peter's life was changed.**

Because of the resurrection... because of what happened that Sunday, they knew that everything Jesus had been saying about the Father,

- about life, about death, about faith, about sacrifice, about forgiveness, about what it means to give your life to Him... **it's all true!**
- For Peter, it meant that he could **let go of the guilt & shame & regret...** and begin a new life.

And that's what the Resurrected Savior has invited us to as we enter into this Easter season.

- To put our spackle knife and spackle away... and embrace the only One who can rebuild the very foundation of our life.
- Only Jesus can do this... Only Jesus can give us a whole new identity. Only Jesus can **restore hope, bring peace, ignite joy, & renew life.**

When Jesus first appeared to the disciples after the resurrection, they immediately grabbed hold of Him and worshipped Him.

- Well, this morning as we close, I'd like to us to share the communion table together.
- I'd like us to respond to Jesus' invitation to remember His body, broken for us... and His blood, which ransomed us... all so we could have **new life** in Him.

AND so, as you come up, take a palm branch or two,

- and remember the One who came for you... to bring you a new foundation, a new life... a life of intimacy and friendship with Him.
- Take the bread, dip it in the juice, and ENCOUNTER perfect love!