

# “PALM SUNDAY WITNESSES”

by  
Terry Stanley

## Synopsis

Thousands of people were present to witness Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Among them were Passover Visitors, Pharisees, and Jesus' Disciples. A representative from each group will share their feelings about what Jesus meant to them as they witnessed Jesus riding into the city.

## Scripture

John 12:12-19

## Ministry Lesson

We celebrate Palm Sunday to commemorate Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. But what does the palm mean to you? The Palm is a symbol of victory. Let us receive and wave our palm to celebrate that Jesus is our Lord and King through whom we have the victory over death, sin, and the grave.

## Ministry Theme

Passion Week

## Cast/Readers

The Passover Visitor - male  
The Pharisee - older male  
The Disciple - male  
Narrator - female

## Costumes

You have options. Your choice depends on how you want to tell the story (as a Readers Theater or as a Monologue)

- Tee-shirts with each character's name printed on front
- Biblical clothing (monologue presentation)
- All black clothing (readers theater presentation)

## Prop

If Readers Theater

- All Readers are holding black notebooks or folders with the script.

If Monologue

- The Passover Visitor is also holding a palm
- The Pharisee is holding a bible (book of the Law)
- The Disciple is holding a palm

**Time:** 7 min.

## Director's notes

You can have the characters perform their part as a monologue or a reading. This is a personal choice based on the time you have to rehearse and the talent of your cast. Both dramatic forms can be done effectively.

EXT. - A ROAD IN JERUSALEM. JESUS IS APPROACHING RIDING ON A DONKEY'S COLT

THREE MEN ARE EQUALLY SPACED FACING THE AUDIENCE (*THEY ARE WITNESSES IN THE CROWD AS JESUS APPROACHES THEM*). THE NARRATOR IS STANDING FAR STAGE RIGHT.

**Narrator:**

Today, we commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem just days before He would be betrayed and crucified. Thousands of people lined the streets to see Jesus. Among them were Jews who were visiting Jerusalem for the Passover; the Pharisees and other religious leaders; and Jesus' Disciples. Although they all came to see Jesus, everyone's motive for coming was not the same. Listen as a representative from each group share their feelings about Jesus on this historical day.

### The Passover Visitor

(Excited) I see Jesus coming! This is the moment I've been waiting for all my life...to see the Messiah. Throughout all of Judea, we have heard about this Jesus and the many miracles He has done. He healed the sick and restored sight to the blind. He caused the lame to walk and cast out demons. Just days ago, we heard that Jesus raised a man named Lazarus from the dead. He called him out from the tomb after 4 days! Only by the power of God can a man do these things. Word spread quickly that Jesus was arriving into Jerusalem this morning. Jews from all over the world have come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Everyone has gathered palms; a symbol of victory...Jesus' victory! We want to let Jesus know that He is our true King...not Cesar. For many years we have lived under the oppression of Rome, but no more. God has heard our prayers and sent us a King who will save us and set us free. Free from Rome's tyranny and control over our country and our lives. This Jesus will destroy the bondage of Rome's oppression and restore our nation. This is what we want! This is what we need! Jesus is our Messiah and He will save us from Rome! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. *(Waves palm in the air)* Hail to our victorious King!

**The Pharisee**

(Disgusted) The entire city has come out to see this Galilean. Look at them; waving their palms in the air. Look at them; cheering and shouting "Praise God for the Son of David". (In dis-belief) They are calling this Jesus a King and the Messiah. Many times, we asked Jesus to prove His deity and show us a miraculous sign. He said, "The only sign you will see is that of the Prophet Jonah." (Laughing) Will this Jesus rest in the belly of a fish for 3 days and live again? He is nothing more than the Son of a Carpenter and a Blasphemer. (With distain) Look at Him, He comes riding on a donkey's colt. He pretends to come in peace, yet He stirs the crowd to rebel against our way of life. He challenges the Law of Moses and all the traditions we hold sacred. Now the people believe that Jesus raised some man named Lazarus from the dead. This Lazarus has become a living testimony of Jesus's power to perform miracles that only God can do. This has to stop before the whole world falls into his hands. This Jesus is a threat to our way of life and the peace of our society. The peace and order we have been graciously granted to us by Cesar. We must get rid of this Jesus otherwise Cesar will say we cannot control our people. Rome will take away what little freedoms we have. Once we rid ourselves of Jesus AND Lazarus, these people will come back to their senses. (Cautious) Too bad we cannot arrest him today...this crowd will surely riot against us. In a few days the Passover...

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- End of Preview -

As the story continues the audience is challenged to choose which character (the Visitor, the Pharisee, or the Disciple) best reflects their view of Jesus; someone who will change other people; someone who will leave them alone; or someone who will change who they are. This is a powerful message of personal conviction.  
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