

Today is Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday, the day Jesus enters Jerusalem for the Passover. This was God's arrival into His own city, but few recognized it as such. Soon, this celebration of the Passover, of God liberating and leading his people out of slavery from Egypt, would end in disaster for Jesus who sought to liberate all from slavery to sin. Even Jesus' closest friends abandon him to what would be his trial, scourging, and death. All that Jesus had worked for, seemingly died this day.

Fortunately for us, we know the rest of the story. But perhaps that's a hindrance to fully appreciating the significance of this day. "Passion" means "to suffer" , to undergo something. What Jesus, the Son of God, went-through was total abandonment from his friends, supporters, and humanity itself. No one stands up for Jesus. Even those who might be inclined to do so, acquiesce out of fear.

Fear. I believe fear is Satan's favorite tool. It immobilizes us; it keeps us from doing the right thing, when we know we should. Fear, (and thus the Evil One) overshadowed and dominated this day, from the disciples to Pilate, and fostered the death of the **only** righteous and innocent man to walk the face of the earth. Yet, there was one place, one person rather, where fear was overcome and defeated by love. Jesus so loved his Father, he so loved his mission to save **us**, that he would not let fear dissuade him from a wrongful and excruciating death, especially if it meant the potential salvation of all, even those who had abandoned or wronged him.

No greater love has ever been shown to us than this. That is why we celebrate Palm Sunday, because today we are shown that Love always conquers fear and death.