

Palm Sunday April 17, 2011 “Can You Give Him Your Cloak?”

While planning this week’s sermon, the idea of coats came to me. We call them coats or jackets and in Bible times, cloaks. The story is told about a blonde lady who was tired of people thinking blondes weren’t that smart. She decided that when her husband is at work, she would paint a couple of rooms in the house. Her husband left for work and she began her work. He returned home at 5:30 and noticed the smell of paint. Walking into the living room, he found his wife lying on the floor in a pool of sweat. She was laying there wearing a ski jacket and a fur coat. He asked if she was o.k. and she was. She told him her plan to prove that blondes were smart by painting the house. He asked her why she was painting while wearing a ski jacket and fur coat? She replied that as she was reading the directions on the can it said; FOR BEST RESULTS, PUT ON TWO COATS.

Her heart was in the right place, wasn’t it? Just as her two coats made a statement about her painting just as the cloaks worn by people at Bible times made a statement about who they were. I was reading that at Jesus’ time, the cloak was so important that even if you went to jail to pay your debts, they would take everything you had except your cloak. The cloak was something that was personal. It said something about who you were in life. A cloak could offer warmth and protection. It could become shelter from the elements. It covered your nakedness. It could serve as your pillow at night. A cloak could not be taken, but it could be given.

We might not treat our coats or jackets in that way, but there are many different things that are cloak-like in our lives. There are things that are cloak-like and warm our hearts like the warm feeling of money in our pockets or stuff we can buy. We find cloak-like comfort in our job or family. Our home or car can be cloak-like and offer protection in a storm. We get very possessive about our cloaks, don’t we? We hold on to what is ours and object to having to share with others or even with God.

The Bible highlights cloak stories. Remember Joseph and his cloak of many colors? It showed how special he was and became an object of jealousy by his brothers. The Bible tells us that when Jesus was healing Bartimaeus, the blind man threw his cloak away and opened himself in faith to Jesus. He threw away the old life for a new one. In Matthew 5 Jesus tells His disciples that if someone wants your tunic, offer your cloak as well as a sign of love.

The story of Palm Sunday is a story of cloaks given to the Lord in faith. We know that Jesus was going to Jerusalem to die on the cross for our sins. He rode on a donkey. The Bible tells us that His disciples threw their cloaks on the donkey for Him to sit on for the ride. This was an act of humility and faith as they gladly gave something special of themselves to Jesus. Arriving in Jerusalem, people placed palm leaves on the road; palm leaves are easy to give up, but many spread their cloaks, a real act of devotion to their King.

This Palm Sunday, are waving palm crosses enough for you or are you ready to make a commitment of faith and offer Jesus your cloak today? Waving palms is easy, but a cloak offered to the King Who would die and rise for you is a real act

of faith. Your cloak thrown down before Jesus today tells Him that you're ready to give your time in His service; you're ready to serve in His church or the community in His Name. Your cloak tells Jesus that no longer will you hold back on your offerings for His Kingdom to grow. Your cloak tells Jesus that you know that God Is Good.. All The Time and you're going to show that in your life. So take your coats off when you paint, but throw them down to praise your King. Amen.. .pastor matthews