

# From Rags to Righteous

Wylie United Methodist Church  
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – April 5, 2009

John 12:12-28

12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" 14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, 15 "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." 16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him. 17 Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. 18 Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet him. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!" 20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. 23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 I tell you the truth, **unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.** 25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. 27 "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' **No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.** 28 **Father, glorify your name!**"

Jesus' destination all along was THE CROSS!!

What does that mean? "For this very reason I came".

## 1. GOD IS HOLY—WE'RE NOT

Revelation 15:3-4

3... "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. 4 Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For **you alone are holy.** All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

Romans 3:23

**all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**

## 2. OUR UNHOLINESS RESULTS IN ISOLATION FROM GOD AND ULTIMATELY DEATH

Genesis 2:16-17

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but **you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,** for **when you eat of it you will surely die.**"

Romans 6:23 The **wages of sin is death...**

## 3. TRY AS WE DO, WE CAN'T WORK OUR WAY OUT OF OUR UNHOLINESS

Isaiah 64:6

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and **all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;**

## 4. OUR ONLY HOPE---WE MUST BE MADE HOLY

John 3:14-15

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so **the Son of Man must be lifted up,** 15 **that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.**

John 12:31-33

31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. 32 But I, **when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.**" 33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

John 8:28

Jesus said, "**When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am [the one I claim to be].**"...

## 5. WE BECOME HOLY THROUGH CHRIST AT THE CROSS

Ephesians 2:13

But now **in Christ Jesus** you who **once were far away** have been **brought near through the blood of Christ.**

Gal 3:26-27

You are all **sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,** for all of you who were baptized into Christ have **clothed yourselves with Christ.**

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made **him who had no sin to be sin for us,** so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

Romans 3:20-25

20... no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. 21 But now **a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known,** to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This **righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.** There is no difference, 23 for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.** 25 **God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.**

*"Through a tree we were made debtors to God; so through a tree we have our debt canceled. -- Irenaeus (2<sup>nd</sup> century Bishop & theologian)*

Isaiah 53:5

[Jesus] was **pierced** for **our transgressions,** he was **crushed** for **our iniquities;** the punishment that **brought us peace** was upon him, and **by his wounds we are healed.**

What are you wearing today? Rags—or a Robe?

Because you see, "It was for this very reason that [Jesus] came."