

Esther and Emmett – Palm Sunday

Esther: Hi Emmett. Are you ready for the parade?

Emmett: Hi Esther. I sure am. I brought a palm branch to wave.

Esther: I have a palm branch too. But what else did you bring?

Emmett: I brought a cloth. I am pretending it is a cloak.

Esther: This will be fun. Since we can't worship at the church yet, we can 'pretend' that we are watching Jesus enter the city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Emmett: So, let's watch Jesus. (looks in one direction). Here he comes.

Esther: He's riding on a donkey!

Emmett: Nice donkey!

Esther: (looking at Emmett) Nice donkey???

Emmett: Yeah, that's what you say at a parade...nice float...nice marching band...nice donkey!

Esther: Speaking of donkeys, shouldn't you throw your 'cloak' on the ground so it can walk over it?

Emmett: Uh, well I don't know. I kind of like this cloak.

Esther: Emmett, it's just a pretend cloak...and that's what people did, they put their cloaks on the road – it's kind of like rolling out a red carpet at an awards show. They put their cloaks on the road for Jesus to ride over.

Emmett: Okay (drops cloth) ...since we're pretending I think I will pretend that the donkey jumps over my cloak!

Esther: And now we wave our palm branches and shout "Hosanna!"

Emmett: Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!...how was that!

Esther: Very good...Hosanna!

Emmett: Uh, Esther, I have a question...

Esther: Sure, what's your question?

Emmett: Why are we yelling 'Hosanna?' I don't suppose it means 'nice donkey!'

Esther: No, 'hosanna' means 'help' or 'save.'

Emmett: Oh...okay...I don't get it. Why were people saying that?

Esther: Well, they didn't only say 'hosanna.' They also said, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.'

Emmett: Oh...okay...I still don't get it! I think I'd have just waved at Jesus.

Esther: People were excited because they believed that Jesus' parade was telling something wonderful!

Emmett: Parades tell us something?

Esther: Yes they do. The yearly Santa Claus parade...

Emmett: Tells us Christmas is here!

Esther: And when a sports team wins a championship sometimes there is a parade to say "We are the champions."

Emmett: Some places have an Easter parade...because Easter is here!!

Esther: Parades contain messages! When Jesus paraded into Jerusalem, the parade said 'God is here!' God is here in the way Jesus cares about people, God is here when people are healed, God is here when food is shared...

Emmett: God is here when someone rides on a nice donkey!

Esther: Yes...because if a king rode into a city on a donkey it meant that the king came in peace.

Emmett: See, I knew we should be yelling 'nice donkey.'

Esther: And, in a way, the Jesus parade was also saying 'we are the champions.'

Emmett: Really...did they have a trophy?

Esther: No, they had a donkey.

Emmett: A nice donkey.

Esther: And neither the donkey nor Jesus nor his friends looked very powerful and impressive, but they were saying that what is important is to create peace and to love one another, and ...

Emmett: And all that stuff that Jesus did!

Esther: Exactly! Being champions for God means loving people as Jesus loved, and that's what can save the world, that's what makes the world be the kind of world God wants it to be!

Emmett: Wow! Then let's shout 'Hosanna!' – but I'm still pretending the donkey jumps over my cloak!

Esther: Blessed is the one who comes from God. Hosanna! Amen!

Emmett: Amen!