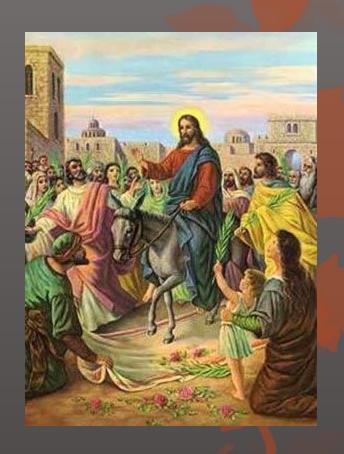
"Hosanna to the Son of David"

Matthew 21:9



Lessons on: Steadfastness in way of the Lord



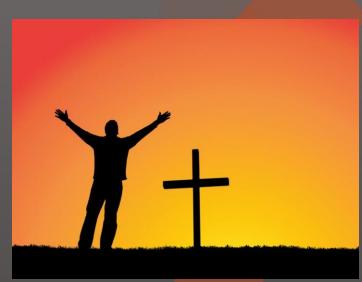
"My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast" Psalm 57:7

Highlights

- 1. Aspects of Steadfastness
- 2. Different types of people along the way
- 3. Importance of Steadfastness
- 4. How can we acquire

 Steadfastness in our relationship

 with God?



1. Aspects of Steadfastness

- 1. In Faith
- 2. In God's love: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" Romans 8:35
- 3. In striving for holiness
- 4. In Christian virtues: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" 1 Corinthians 15:58

2. Different types of people (1)

- Those who only desire to walk with God.
 Nothing go beyond a wish for a godly life.
- Some turn to God temporarily and soon turn to another pursuit: "for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world" 2 Timothy 4:10
- 3. Some plan many beginnings but with no follow through. No ability to finish the race and no fruits are revealed.



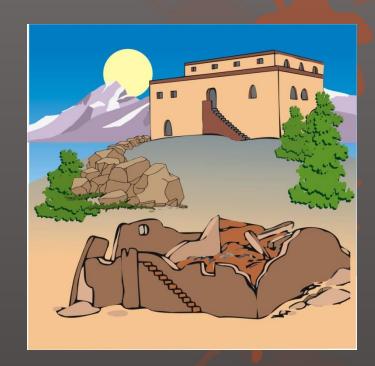
2. Different types of people (2)

- 4. Those who try to walk the path with double interests and double loyalties. Soon, they will be discouraged and turn away.
- 5. Those who pursue the way with a steadfast heart. They might fall along the way, but they never turn away from it.



3. Importance of Steadfastness (1)

This is the only way by which we can overcome the tribulations that may come upon us: "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock"



Matthew 7:24-25

3. Importance of Steadfastness (2)

- Being double minded will hurt us in every pursuit not only on God's way: `...a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways" James 1:8
- 3. Steadfastness is a mandate to experience growth in the relationship with God.
- 4. Only those who endure to the end shall be saved.



4. How can we acquire Steadfastness? (1)

1. The Clear Goal:

- Am I after God or God's gifts? (Those who received the Lord on Palm Sunday...what were they cheering for?)
- "Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set **His face** to go to Jerusalem" Luke 9:51
- The clear goal makes the pursuit steady and the difficulties subject to us.



4. How can we acquire Steadfastness? (2)

2. Who leads me at the end?:

- Are they my desires?
- Is it my mind and what makes sense to it?
- Or is it the Spirit of God in me to whom I yield and allow Him to dictate my decisions?



4. How can we acquire Steadfastness? (3)

3. Acquiring "Roots":

- The roots are what hold a big tree to the ground and nourish it to grow.
- They are the practices of the true
 Christian life with all of its
 asceticism, selflessness, and humility
- These roots also come from tasting God's love and realizing His goodness.



4. How can we acquire Steadfastness? (4)

4. The external support:

- This is what the Lord requested from St. Peter: "and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." Luke 22:32
- This is the need we will always have for other members of the Body of Christ.

