



Welcome to our FINAL MESSAGE of our ONE TEAM series. Let's do a quick recap:

Week 1: How do we know we've won? We're ONE. God DEFINES THE WIN.

Week 2: You may not think much of yourself, but God does! You were DESIGNED TO WIN.

Week 3: Your best self is less self. WE DIE TO WIN.

Week 4: We take off self and put on Christ. So we put on our ONE TEAM Jesus jersey! Where Jesus? Wear Jesus! DRESS TO WIN.

Week 5: Me for the We: For us seeing others win IS the win. So we DECREASE TO WIN.

Today we learn that we are DESTINED TO WIN. If we work together, WE WIN as ONE TEAM.

1. How would you summarize what the Lord has impressed on your life in our One Team original series?

This weekend is known around Christendom as "Palm Sunday." What's this about? Well, the Prophet Zechariah is known for prophesying the most intricate, specific details about the coming of the Messiah. Check this out:

"Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt" (Zechariah 9:9 NLT).

Zechariah saw a future king of Jerusalem riding into town in the most bizarre way imaginable--not on a white horse in shining armor, leading a triumphant army as his entourage. The nation of Israel would turn out to greet Him and welcome Him as their King, rejoicing and shouting, but the King would be riding on a donkey. What set of circumstances would ever bring about such a ridiculous scene? How on Earth could such an event ever make any sense? Yet, Zechariah knew he had heard from the Lord, so he spoke it. He wrote it down, as if to say: "Mark my words this will take place exactly as I have foreseen it. And THIS is how we will recognize the next King of Israel. Watch for the DONKEY."



Fast forward 500 years. Let's read this together from the Gospel of John:

"The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: "Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt" (John 12:12-15 NLT).

Sure enough, true to Zechariah's improbable prophecy, the King of Israel rode into Jerusalem exactly as he predicted--on a donkey. The nation of Israel is under Roman occupation. Any so-called "King of Israel" riding in with a sword, shield, and shining armor at the head of an army would immediately be met with the full force of the Roman Legion garrisoned in Israel. And so now Zechariah's prophecy makes perfect sense. The Messiah of Israel, with no army, no weapons, riding on a donkey, would pose no threat whatsoever to Rome. The people were not rioting. They were happy. Rejoicing. Meanwhile the Romans merely snickered and sneered, shaking their heads--having been provided with yet more evidence that they will never understand the strange beliefs of the people they had conquered. Perhaps they were wondering why they had bothered to conquer such people in the first place. And so right under their very noses, the prophecy of Zechariah comes to pass. The King of Israel did indeed enter the gates of Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. And the people greeted him with shouts of triumph and great rejoicing, waving palm branches in the air, crying out, "Hoshana! Baruch haba b'shem Adonai!" "Save us! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!" For you see, everyone had heard that the day before, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. And maybe they thought Jesus was some kind of superhero, capable of destroying their Roman oppressors single-handedly. But THIS King had a far more ambitious plan in mind--one beyond their finite imaginations. THIS King planned to destroy their greatest enemy of all--and it wasn't Rome.



In fact, this enemy plagued both Jew and Roman alike. THIS King came to conquer DEATH ITSELF. He came on a donkey because He wasn't the fierce Lion of Judah they had come to expect. No, instead He was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. For today THIS King came to demonstrate that LOVE is greater than HATE, GOOD greater than EVIL, and that LIFE is greater than DEATH. This day came to be known as Palm SUNDAY. The Sunday that Zechariah's weird prophecy came true, and the King of Israel appeared at the gates of Jerusalem.

2. What is the connection between Zechariah's prophecy about the Messiah and Palm Sunday? Why is this such a significant event?

But by Friday of that same week, the King of Israel would hang lifeless on a cross, having absorbed into His own body the sin of the world. But on the third day, the third day, SUNDAY, EASTER SUNDAY, the stone that covered His tomb would be rolled away, and the King of Israel would RISE triumphant over mankind's greatest enemies--sin, hatred, despair, disease, and death. This weekend we prepare to celebrate that mind-boggling day yet again. 2,000 years later the Kingdom of Jesus the Messiah has taken over nearly half the world! History is drawing closer and closer to its inevitable conclusion--the reign of Christ over all the Earth. Just as Zechariah's peculiar prophecy about Jesus has come to pass, so too will EVERY prophecy about Him. EVERY prophecy about Jesus being the King of kings and Lord of lords of this world will happen exactly as it is written to the smallest detail. It is His DESTINY. Jesus is DESTINED TO WIN. And ALL who follow Him are DESTINED TO WIN.

3. Why did Jesus the Messiah come to Earth? What was His amazing plan?

So why did we do our ONE TEAM series? Why place it at this moment in the year, on these particular dates? The reason is because "what's happening NEXT weekend?" Next week is Easter Sunday. We think the Super Bowl is Super Sunday because 100 million people watch it on TV. In fact, a little bit of trivia, did you know that of the TOP 10 television broadcasts of all time, NINE of them are Super Bowls.



(The one exception is the final episode of the final season of MASH back in 1983--and it placed 9th on the list.) Imagine that! The Super Bowl is by far the most-watched TV show of all time with about 100 million people tuning in. And so we call it "Super Sunday." But the Super Bowl is NOTHING compared with Easter Sunday. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is BY FAR the most popular event in human history. Next weekend there's not going to be 100 million people celebrating Easter, there's going to be 3 BILLION! The Super Bowl is mostly an American thing. But on Easter, people from just about every country in the world will worship the Risen Christ. Sure, Tom Brady has more Super Bowl wins than any TEAM in history. But hey, Tom, try rising from the dead! The "greatest of all time" is NOT TB12. It's JC JOHN 3:16!

So we did our ONE TEAM series NOW to get us ready for the REAL SUPER SUNDAY--not the Super Bowl. RESURRECTION SUNDAY! We were training you, preparing you, getting you ready so we would be ALL IN and ALL OUT THIS WEEK to work together as ONE TEAM. Next weekend without fail the greatest number of people the entire year will be coming to Church. The highest number of people will be watching Church Online. More people will come to Christ next weekend than any other weekend in the year. In fact, how many of YOU started following Jesus on Easter Sunday?

4. Why is Easter weekend significant for the Church? And why did we time our One Team series just before Easter weekend?

So because of our ONE TEAM series, you now have a better idea of how and where you serve in the Church. Good! Because next weekend, it's general quarters. Man your battle stations!

But before we get there, THIS final week before Super Sunday is the crucial week. To maximize Super Sunday, we all need to do TWO THINGS: PRAY and INVITE. PRAY and INVITE. Turn to the person next to you and say, "Pray and Invite."



So the first is PRAY. Before you talk to anyone, take your seat in the Heavenly Realm next to Jesus. Don't put any pressure on yourself. Just relax, breathe, and begin to worship Jesus who is sitting right next to you. Because of His lovingkindness, grace, and favor, you and Jesus are ONE. The two of you are as close as the air in your lungs. Your heart beats as one with His. Rest in the Shalom Peace you now enjoy with God, your Creator, your Father, because of Jesus. Try it right now as you listen to this message. Go ahead. [Pause] As you relax in His Presence, ask Him to bring someone of His choosing to your mind. As soon as I said that, did you get a picture of someone's face in your mind? Or maybe someone's name? [Pause] Ok, hang on to that person. I believe by faith there is a very important reason that person came to your mind in this moment. Now ask the Lord to show you how much He loves this person. Ask the Lord to impart that same love to you--His love for this very special person into your heart. Now if by faith you have a sense of confirmation in your heart, reach out to this person. The Lord will show you what to do next. It has never been easier to INVITE someone to Church. You can text the link to our website, call, email--however the Lord impresses you to reach out. But you will never know that you heard correctly unless you reach out. It could be something as simple as, "Hey, the Lord brought you to my mind just now, is everything ok?" But you need to step out. Listen, we cannot convert anyone. We can't make anyone do anything. We can't change people. So none of that is on us. If the person doesn't respond, we are not responsible for that. What we do is reach out and extend the love of Jesus to people. That's it. When you do that you are 100% successful. But of course, people are going to come to Jesus! When you PRAY and INVITE, that is the most powerful thing we can do to help people come to Jesus.

The most amazing story I ever heard about a volunteer in church was about a man named Horace Willard from Saddleback. Horace was an old retiree who loved Jesus and had a passion to see people come to Christ. He would share Christ with up to 700 people in one year! If you ask him how he did it, he would say, "I take a second to pray and the Lord will bring someone to mind." He would see a person's face or recall someone's name. Then he would contact that person and say, "Hey, Joe, this is Horace Willard from Saddleback Church. May I treat you to lunch?" And just about every time, that person was already thinking about God or



Heaven or death and needed to talk to someone about it. Then he would lead them to Jesus. This happened hundreds of times every year during his retirement, until Horace went home to Jesus in 2016. Isn't that amazing? What a legacy. Imagine all the people who will be in Heaven because of Horace Willard. PRAY first, then INVITE second. As we do this we are cooperating with what God has prophesied for our world. And when we do this we are DESTINED TO WIN. It is our DESTINY.

5. What are the two things we can do as One Church to “win” on Easter weekend? What did you think of the example of Horace Willard?

This year Easter happens to fall on April 4th. April 4th is the exact date our church was born. April 4, 1999. Exactly 22 years ago, our church was the first church to be planted out of New Hope, led by Pastor Wayne Cordeiro. So next week will be our birthday. In fact, ALL of our campuses were born on Easter Sunday. Wahiawa was born on Easter Sunday 2009. Haleiwa - Easter 2011. The Transformation Academy - Easter 2015. New Hope Spark - Easter 2016. All these amazing ministries were all born on Easter, and that's another reason we call it SUPER SUNDAY. And as I said earlier, Easter is also when many of you were born-again into new life in Christ over the last 22 years. Now, it's YOUR turn to help a very special someone come to Christ on SUPER SUNDAY. PRAY and INVITE. And watch what God does. [Pause] During our ONE TEAM series, I got to put my coach's hat on, and I, along with our amazing coaching team, gave you our best shot at helping us get ready for SUPER SUNDAY. But never forget, coaches don't win games. Players do. And titles aren't won in locker rooms just as the Christian life isn't won in church sanctuaries. The real test is out there--at home, at school, at work, in our neighborhoods. All of our practice, training, and discipline will payoff wonderfully as we contend for ONENESS and God's Presence in our every-day lives. It is a foregone conclusion that Jesus is and will be the King of kings and Lord of lords over all the Earth. All of history is being orchestrated toward this dramatic conclusion. The only question is will we--and those we love--join Him? When you do, you are DESTINED TO WIN. PRAY AND INVITE. It's GAME TIME, team! Next week is SUPER SUNDAY. See you then. ALOOO-HA!



6. Take a few moments *NOW* to pray, and ask the Lord which friends and family members you should invite to Easter. Which names or faces come to mind? Text them a link to our church online services right now and invite them to Church! www.nhcohawaii.org.

7. As you pray *THIS WEEK*, write down the names of people God brings to mind. Text them the link too!