

Message

Title: Rescue From The Crowd
Speaker: Pastor Dom O'Connell
Date: 29 March 2026

“Don’t be swayed by the crowd—choose truth and stand firm in your faith this Holy Week.”

Introduction

This week, reflect on where you find your truth—crowd approval or the face of Jesus?

Are you living out a faith shaped by the crowd or defined by the truth of Jesus?

In this powerful Palm Sunday message, Pastor Dom O'Connell explores the dramatic shift of the crowd's attitude during Holy Week—from welcoming Jesus as king to calling for His crucifixion. Through the story of Pilate's tense encounter with Jesus, he challenges us to examine where our faith stands: Are we crowd-pleasers or truth-seekers?

As we enter a week set apart, we're invited to break free from the pressure to conform and to anchor ourselves in the truth of who Jesus is, even when it costs. This message calls for a personal and communal reflection on faith, truth, and the courage to stand firm despite opposing voices.

Scripture

John 12:12-15 — The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 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!”



John 18:28-38 — Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. ... Pilate asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?'

John 19:1-7 — Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. ... 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' they shouted.

Don't Miss This

- The Power and Danger of the Crowd: The crowd's opinion can change quickly and doesn't always reflect truth. We must be cautious not to let popular opinion dictate our faith.
- The Call From Crowd-Pleasing to Truth-Seeking: Pilate's struggle reminds us to choose truth even when it costs us approval or comfort. Faith needs to be rooted in conviction, not convenience.
- Stop Outsourcing Your Truth: Our understanding of Jesus and truth must come from our personal encounter and study, not just inherited or popular beliefs.

Let's Chat

1. When have you felt pressured to follow the crowd rather than stand for what you believe?
2. What does 'truth' mean to you in the context of your faith journey?
3. How can we support each other to resist the temptation to be crowd-pleasers?
4. Pilate asked, 'What is truth?'; how do you seek to know and live out the truth today?
5. In what ways can you help others move from crowd-shaped belief to truth-shaped conviction?

