

WILLOWS & PALMS

Leviticus 23:40 And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.

This scripture paints a beautiful word picture of life. In all of our lives there are Palm Days and Willow Days. What I mean by that is we all have good days and bad days, happy days and sad days, good times and bad times. But in all of our days we need to rejoice in the Lord.

The Palm Branch represents the victorious day – The Willow Branch represents the sorrowful day.

Sooner or later we all have to deal with something that our money can't fix, that our status in life can't fix, in that day we need to go to God with our Weeping Willow in our hand and rejoice.

There are a lot more Palm Days in our life than we realize. We do have an awful lot to rejoice because of. Did you wake up today **WITHOUT** a headache? Rejoice!

We'll all have Palm Days of plenty and Willow Days of little, but we need to rejoice in the Lord at all times. You have to learn to worship no matter what, you have to worship with a Palm Branch in one hand and a Willow Branch in the other. We have to learn to be like the Apostle Paul, content in any day, good or bad, because God is working ALL things together for good.

Hanging Harps – Satan's Trophies

- † Psalms 137 By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down and wept, When we remembered Zion. For there our captors demanded of us songs, And our tormentors mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion."

Life Is A Mixture Of Happy & Sad

- † Psalms 30:5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.

You can just as quickly go from a Willow Day to a Palm Day, rejoice at all times. Just one wrong turn, one red light, one phone call from a doctor, one minute late for an appointment. It's a dangerous thing to think that, as a Christian life will

not happen to you. Sometimes we'll say "this just shouldn't happen to a Christian, a child of God.' But life happens to us all. It's a matter of what we do in all the days of our life.

VIDEO – A DAUGHTER KILLED BY A DRUNK DRIVER

Sometimes we think because we love the Lord that we'll have all Palm Days, but that's just not so. Be sure your worship is connected to God and not your circumstances. Your circumstances are a part of your life but God needs to be the CENTER of your life.

Let's Preach Together

- † Psalms 103:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!
- † Psalms 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- † I Thessalonians 5:16, 18, 19 Rejoice always, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you, Do not quench the Spirit.
- † Habakkuk 3:16 - 18 Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

You have something in your life to rejoice about right now!

VIDEO – A LITTLE GIRL AND PSALM 23

We make a big deal out of our Willow Days and don't really rejoice as much in our Palm Days. How can we honestly sit in a service like this and not rejoice, were healthy enough to be here, we have a great music ministry leading us in worship, we have dedicated prayer partners who will pray for us personally, putting their loving hands on our needy head, we need to rejoice. That's why

WE SHOULD BE COMING TO CHURCH PLANNING TO REJOICE.

Everybody Can Rejoice

- † **Jeremiah 31:13** Then maidens will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

- † ***Psalms 33:1*** **Rejoice in the LORD**, O you righteous! *For* praise from the upright is beautiful.
- † ***Psalms 97:12*** **Rejoice in the LORD**, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.
- † ***Isaiah 41:16*** You shall winnow them, the wind shall carry them away, And the whirlwind shall scatter them; You shall **rejoice in the LORD**, And glory in the Holy One of Israel.
- † ***Isaiah 61:10*** I will greatly **rejoice in the LORD**, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments, And as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels.
- † ***Joel 2:23*** Be glad then, you children of Zion, And **rejoice in the LORD** your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you—The former rain, And the latter rain in the first *month*.
- † ***Habakkuk 3:18*** Yet I will **rejoice in the LORD**, I will joy in the God of my salvation.
- † ***Zechariah 10:7*** *Those of* Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, And their heart shall rejoice as if with wine. Yes, their children shall see *it* and be glad; Their heart shall **rejoice in the LORD**.
- † ***Philippians 3:1*** Finally, my brethren, **rejoice in the Lord**. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.
- † ***Philippians 4:4*** **Rejoice in the Lord** always. Again I will say, rejoice!