

Holy F.O.M.O.!

Palm Sunday 2026

The fear of missing out, or F.O.M.O., is all over American culture. F.O.M.O. taps into a deeply embedded vulnerability in our human psyche which ends up being exploited by marketers to take our money and steal our peace. This is what keeps us buying and buying and buying. It keeps us “doom-scrolling” and refreshing our feed. It keeps us glued to the news. The fear that we're going to miss something that we *need* to catch or we're going to miss the “deal” that's going away. It's driven by an anxiety that we might somehow get left behind, stay in the dark, or be unable to experience and enjoy what everybody *else* is experiencing and enjoying.

FOMO will lead some people to go to crazy lengths - like in a 1996 Christmas movie called “Jingle All the Way” with Arnold Schwarzenegger. In this movie, Arnold is the dad who's not really present, and that year, the hottest toy for Christmas is Turbo Man. All the kids want Turbo Man and everybody's got FOMO for Turbo Man. So, Arnold goes out and thinks he's just going to grab a Turbo Man for his son on Christmas Eve and then go home. He's already running late, but when he gets to the store, the lines are out the door and the shelves are cleaned out. Then he runs into another guy played by Sinbad, and they both end up on a crazy quest competing and driving all over the state trying to find a Turbo Man for their kids. They're setting traps for each other and messing with each other and that's the whole movie. It's F.O.M.O.

FOMO makes us do some crazy stuff - like scrolling for forty-five minutes on Netflix trying to find something to watch. We just keep looking and looking. An hour goes by without picking something because, “*Well, there might be something better.*” And then it ends by us going, “*You know what? There's nothing on.*” And then we just turn off the TV. There was a survey about this which found that 90% of couples spend more time searching for something to watch than actually *watching* something. Why? It's FOMO.

Or, we're at Costco and there's a big line of people at one sample line. We think, “*Oh man, there must be something good over there. There wouldn't be all these people there if there wasn't something really good.*” So, we wait in line for ten minutes thinking, “*Man, this has got to be lobster or something.*” But, finally, when we get up there, it's a frozen microwaved ravioli cube the size of a Lego. We're like, “*Dog gone it.*” It's FOMO.

On social media we see people's filtered highlights of their unrealistic lives. They don't show us any of their *junk*. They show only the good stuff. We see that and think, "*Oh man, I need a better vacation. I need better kids. I need a better life!*" Or, "It's Black Friday." Remember the old Black Friday days where we actually had to go to the *store* to buy stuff? We'd wake up at 3:30 in the morning to go get in a line and fight crowds so we could save seventy bucks on a TV. We were thinking, "*Oh, I can't miss the deal.*"

But maybe there's a *right* application of this oddly strange common urge that we all seem to have. Maybe it's because that urge has been misplaced that we have all these FOMO faux-pas in our life. What if, in all of our busy-ness, what we're really missing is what *God* wants to say? What if we're actually missing out on what God wants to *show* us - what he wants to do in our life, or what he wants to prepare us for. Why do we fear missing out on everything except for a word from God - on what he wants to speak to us through his Word? It's not an empty promise or an illusion. It's not a bait-and-switch. It's not him trying to exploit us.

What God has to say to us - and he has *much* to say to us - is *Truth*. What he has to say to us is true and it has consequences, both good and bad. Maybe what we need is a "*holy*" FOMO - a *holy* fear of missing out - on what God's up to that drives us closer to his heart, and deeper into his Word, because we don't want to miss one thing that he has for us. God's not trying to play coy with us or with his church.

Amos 3:7 NLT

"Indeed, the Sovereign Lord never does anything until he reveals his plans to his servants the prophets."

God says, "*Look, I'm not doing anything without showing my kids, without telling them what I'm up to, without giving them a preview of what I want to do, and what's coming.*" He's not trying to leave us in the dark. He wants us to be prepared.

John 16:13 NLT

"When the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future."

This is Jesus talking about why he has to go and die on the cross, because when he dies and rises from the dead, the Holy Spirit is going to be sent to live on the inside of everyone who names him as Lord - to guide us into all truth. He will tell us about the *future*. God says, "*When my kids walk with me, I'll tell them what's going to happen before it happens.*" He doesn't want us surprised. He doesn't want us caught off guard.

God doesn't want us to have a fear of missing out, and we can *test* him in a way that nobody else and no other false god can pass. The test and the proof of who God is, is his Book - the Bible - where he tells us in advance what will happen *before* it happens. He tells us in advance what *will* happen and then it *happens*. Nobody is capable of that except for him. It's literally his signature of authenticity. He says, *"I'm going to do what only I can do. I'm going to tell you things that nobody could know, nobody could control except for Me. And when you see it come to pass, you're going to know it's Me, and you can trust Me, so, I'm going to do that for my kids. I don't do anything without revealing my plans to my kids."*

Isaiah 46:9-10 ESV

"Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.'"

This is God talking about how we can know there is no one like him. When God says something, it's as good as done - we can *bank* on it. One third of the entire Bible is prophetic in nature. God has hung his reputation on every verse of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. He's declaring things before they happen in specific ways, repeatedly signing his work saying, *"This is the authentic Me. I'm the genuine real deal and you can put your trust in it without have a fear of missing out. This is proof that it's Me"*

Palm Sunday is the day Jesus rides into Jerusalem that begins the final week of his life. He rides in on a donkey with a contingent of people welcoming him into town, waving palms and shouting, *"Hosana in the highest,"* literally declaring him the Messiah. The Pharisees freaked out because they understood the significance of this moment and what was happening here. Many of *us* as Christians today don't understand the significance of the moment that Jesus rode into town on that donkey. This was more than a pre-game tailgate party - more than just a moment before the "real deal" of the cross and the resurrection.

God had told his people the exact day and details of Jesus' triumphal entry 580 years before it happened. 580 years before that moment, God spelled out the exact day, down to the smallest detail, exactly what would happen, so that they would know that *this* day was it - that *this* was the Messiah. God had kept his promise. This was the moment that everybody who knew God should have recognized. This was authentic and genuine - the *real deal*. The people waving the palms were excited. They understood that this moment was one of the most jaw-dropping, impossibly precise, and prophetic fulfillments in all of Scripture.

Jesus expected that the people would recognize the moment because he had told them about it 580 years prior. In 86 BC, the Israelites rejected God, and Jerusalem and Israel were destroyed and a remnant of them were taken captive into Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. One of these captives was Daniel, a young man who had a FOMO - of missing out on anything God was doing in his life. He honored and followed the Lord even as a captive slave in a foreign nation serving foreign leaders. One day, about fifty years into this captivity, Daniel opened up the book of Jeremiah, which was penned about seventy-five years before the time that Daniel was reading it.

In the book of Jeremiah, he noticed that the prophet Jeremiah heard God speak to him and had predicted exactly what had happened to them *before* it happened in Babylon. Not only that, but Jeremiah the prophet wrote the exact length of time they were going to be held captive in Babylon. Daniel read that it was going to be seventy years of captivity, and went, *"Oh my gosh, we're getting close to the end of this thing."* And so what does he do as a man who fears God? He begins seeking the Lord and crying out to God and praying. And for twenty-one days, Daniel is praying and asking the Lord to speak to him about what's going to happen, because he understood that God reveals his plans to his servants.

Twenty-one days later, he has an encounter with the angel Gabriel, and Gabriel proceeds to tell him, *"From the moment you started praying, I was dispatched to come and tell you some cool stuff, but I've been delayed for twenty-one days fighting with a principality, a demonic power, over this entire region who is called the prince of Persia. For twenty-one days I've been delayed from bringing you what I'm about to tell you right now."* Not only did the angel Gabriel give him some insight about what was to happen in his immediate future, but he then proceeded to tell Daniel the exact time frames, dates, and coordinates of exactly when Jesus, the Messiah, would show up and ride into town and be declared King - *580 years before it happened.*

Daniel 9:24-25 AMP

"Seventy weeks [of years, or 490 years] have been decreed for your people and for your holy city (Jerusalem), to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make atonement (reconciliation) for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness (right-standing with God), to seal up vision and prophecy and prophet, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. So you are to know and understand that from the issuance of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until [the coming of] the Messiah (the Anointed One), the Prince, there will be seven weeks [of years] and sixty-two weeks [of years]"

The angel Gabriel told Daniel, *"I'm telling you right now, there's coming a moment where a command is going to be issued to rebuild Jerusalem. And from the moment that happens, it will be 483 years [by the Jewish calendar] to the day, that the Messiah, Jesus, is going to ride into town."*

Luke chapter three says that Jesus' ministry began in the fifteenth year of Tiberius who was the Roman emperor in AD 28, and that Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey four days before Passover, would have fallen on April the 6th 32 AD, the Passover week of that year. The day that Jesus rode into town on a donkey fulfilled a 580-year-old prophecy in exact detail. They knew to look for him because the prophet Zechariah around the same time as Daniel wrote in Zechariah 9:9, *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your king is coming to you. He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey."*

Remember how Jesus arranged this? He told his disciples, *"Hey, go ahead of me into town. Go to this house and you're going to find a donkey tied up there - just go ahead and take it."* So, they went and, sure enough, there's a donkey right where Jesus said it was going to be. Then the guy comes out, *"What are you doing?" "The Master has need of it."* He says, *"Okay, you can take it."* To the detail - to the letter - Jesus was ready for this moment because it had been 580 years in the making - since Genesis - it was in the making. God had put his whole reputation on the line and said, *"Test me and see if I'm not exactly who I say I am - the King of the Universe, declaring the end from the beginning, the One and the only One you can trust with your life, your family, your future, your eternity, your salvation. I'm God. Nobody can do this stuff except for Me."*

John 7:6 AMP

"So Jesus said to them, 'My time has not yet come; but any time is right for you...'

This was before the triumphal entry, because people kept trying to make Jesus king before that moment. They kept trying to grab him and force him to be a physical king. He was saying, *"There's an exact day and a moment when I'm going to do this, and it's not on your time clock. It's on mine. Because my reputation's on the line here, I declared this 580 years ago to Daniel, and I'm gonna do exactly what I said I'm gonna do."* Some people had holy FOMO and recognized this day and moment exactly for what it was. The crowd of people who had palm branches were the people who had read their Bibles, the people who had listened to the teachings, and who knew what the books of Daniel and Zechariah said and how clearly and exactly it was spelled out.

For the Pharisees who missed the moment, what was supposed to be a blessing became a curse. Jesus said, *"If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace, but now they're hidden from your eyes."* Jesus was weeping while he said this. *"For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you. They will surround you and close you in on every side and level you and your children within you to the ground, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another."* He told them, *"Be ready."* And though some were ready and they were blessed, many were *not* ready.

Many were completely taken off guard and were totally unprepared for what God had clearly said he was going to do in detail, and Jesus said, *"All I can do is weep over this because I told you. Why didn't you believe me? Did you think I would lie? Did you think this wasn't really true? Why didn't you believe me?"* Many will face Jesus and he'll ask them that same question. There were over three-hundred detailed specific prophecies about Jesus's first coming, and he fulfilled *every one* of them down to the smallest detail. There are eight times more prophecies about Jesus's second coming than there were about his first, and with even more detail.

There's 2400 specific biblical prophecies about the timing and nature, the seasons, and the signs of his second coming. And, if God expected them to be ready the first time, he expects us even more to be ready the second time. He says, *"Nobody's going to know the day or the hour, but my people better recognize the season, and they better be ready because I'm telling you in advance the future exactly what I'm going to do - and you've got a part to play in this story."*

We want to be of those who delight and are eagerly awaiting for, and expecting the return of our Lord. That expectation leads us to live every day of our life for him right now, and we want to be found about the Father's business when he comes. We want to be found faithful - good and faithful *servants* - who have a prophetic vision for our life. The same God who was so precise on Palm Sunday can be trusted in the details of our life. Jesus said this in John 13:19, *"I am telling you this now before it takes place, that when it does take place, you may believe that I am he."* This is why God does this.

He can do this because he sits above time and space and sees the end from the beginning. He's declared his character, his nature, and his purpose to us. He's told us his intent, his requirements, his judgments, his salvation, and he's given each of us the greatest invitation of all time to be adopted into his family - to be born again - if we will confess and repent of our sins, and turn to him and throw everything we have into a life with Jesus Christ. He didn't call us to *play* church. He called us to give our *life* away to him. He didn't call us to give a donation here and there just to *tip* Jesus. He called us to give him everything we have and live in obedience to our Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

Prayer - *Lord, You are faithful. You do exactly what You say You're going to do. You sent Jesus to rescue us from the domain and the kingdom of darkness to heal us, to forgive us, and to restore us from whatever separates us from God the Father. God, for each of us here who may have forgotten what we should really be afraid of, or missing out on, restore our holy FOMO today. Lord, we ask it in Jesus name. Amen*