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3-20-2016

Homer Hanky

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Recommended Citation

Zonnefeld, Valorie L., "Homer Hanky" (2016). *Faculty Work: Comprehensive List*. Paper 476.
http://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/faculty_work/476

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Homer Hanky

Abstract

"In Jesus' time, the palm branch held a similar role to the homer hanky. Palm branches were a symbol of victory and triumph."

Posting about Palm Sunday from *In All Things* - an online hub committed to the claim that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ has implications for the entire world.

<http://inallthings.org/the-homer-hanky/>

Keywords

In All Things, Minnesota Twins, Palm Sunday, victory

Disciplines

Christianity

Comments

In All Things is a publication of the [Andreas Center for Reformed Scholarship and Service at Dordt College](#).

The Homer Hanky

 [inallthings.org/the-homer-hanky/](https://allthings.org/the-homer-hanky/)

Valorie Zonnefeld

I'm a life-long Minnesota Twins fan and so is my husband. We aren't avid baseball fans, but if you ask about "our team", we'll say "the Twins". (Although I have to admit we follow "our team" closer when they're winning.) When I think about why the Twins are my team, I'm brought back to 1987 when the Twins claimed the World Series Championship. It's not so much the championship that I remember, but the hysteria surrounding the championship drive. The StarTrib introduced a promotion to give away hankies during the pennant race. Sounds kind of strange, I know. A handkerchief is something you use to blow your nose or wipe away tears, but these "homer hankies" were a symbol of victory. I remember watching our 21" RCA television and seeing the Metrodome full of hanky-waving fans cheering their team on to a rally and later the welcoming them home after a 9 to 5 victory in Detroit, where fans lined streets and overpasses waving banners and countless homer hankies.

I have a homer hanky, and my husband does, too, along with the iconic championship Wheaties box (unopened, I might add). I love our homer hankies and the Wheaties box because they remind me of the buzz, excitement, and ultimate victory of that special season.

In Jesus' time, the palm branch held a similar role to the homer hanky. Palm branches were a symbol of victory and triumph. This is why the palm branch and palm trees are so frequently pictured in ancient Near Eastern artwork. The palm wasn't used for its beauty. It was a symbol of victory. So when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey and believers lined the streets waving palm branches, it was a celebration similar to welcoming the Twins back to Minneapolis after securing a bid to the championship playoffs. I imagine it as a spontaneous party celebrating our Lord.

Today is Palm Sunday, and many churches will include palm branches in their worship. When you see palm branches, I encourage you to think about the symbolism of victory denoted by them. Victory over death through Jesus Christ. Oh, and if any of your palm branch wavers get enthusiastically out of control, remember that this is a celebration! It might get raucous at times.