

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read John 12:1-19. What questions immediately come to mind? Does being familiar with this text & this event hinder your hearing it anew?
2. Where had Jesus been, & what drew him back to Jerusalem (11:54-55)? What did this particular Passover mean to Jesus (1:29)? What did Mary's extravagant action reveal about who Jesus was to her? How is this a reflection of what she means to him?
3. How did Judas' reaction reveal his true character? In defending Mary, how did Jesus reveal the significance of her actions?
4. Compare John 12:8 & Matthew 14:7. What does Jesus seem to be suggesting here? Note especially the clear word in Mt 14 that disciples will always have opportunities to be generous. How does our world typically approach caring the poor in the 21st century? Whose responsibility do we assume it is in our current circumstances? How is that an affront to Jesus' intention for his church?
5. As the crowds welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, why did they quote Psalm 118:25-26? How does this Psalm reveal their hopes? How will Jesus fulfil the true essence of their request?
6. As the Triumphal Entry unfolded, the atmosphere must have been one of great energy & excitement. Why were the crowds so eager to welcome Christ? In what ways were their expectations & desires different from those of Jesus?
7. According to Zechariah's prophecy (Zech 9:9), why should the "people of Jerusalem" not be afraid? What does this reveal about Jesus?
8. Why did the disciple not understand any of this until after the resurrection & ascension? What does the triumph & reign of Christ tell us about his ministry, suffering & death?
9. It has been said that "The value you place on Christ will determine how you interact with him." If someone were to closely watch your life, listen to your conversations, note your daily activities & your financial expenditures, what value would they see you place on Christ? Are you ok with that? If not, what needs to be transformed by him?
10. What does it cost to follow Jesus in 21st century Australia? Why does it seem that the cost is low, the path easy & the result small? What should the Holy Spirit do in us to change that?

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Living Water Fellowship

PALM SUNDAY

24th March 2024

COME TO JESUS

GATHERING SONG: Great Are You Lord (*All Sons & Daughters*)

RESPONSIVE PRAISE:

Lord Jesus,
You declared good tidings to the people,
You proclaimed release to captives,
and You set free those who are bound:

We adore you.

Lord Jesus,
You are friend of the outcast and the poor,
You feed the hungry,
and You heal the sick:

We adore you.

Lord Jesus,
You modelled a life of gentleness,
You led the way by holiness,
You ushered us into your kingdom
and You overcome evil with good:

We adore you.

Lord Jesus,
You died save us from our sin,
You rose to grant eternal life,
and You ascended to prepare our heavenly home:

We adore you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY & WELCOME:

SONG: What Love My God (*CityAlight*)

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: John 12:1-19

¹ Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. ² A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honour. Martha served, & Lazarus was among those who ate with him. ³ Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, & she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

⁴ But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, ⁵ "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold & the money given to the poor." ⁶ Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, & since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself. ⁷ Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

⁹ When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him & also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, ¹¹ for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them & believed in Jesus.

¹² The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors ¹³ took palm branches & went down the road to meet him. They shouted, "Hosanna!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hail to the King of Israel!"

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey & rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said:

¹⁵ "Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem.

Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt."

¹⁶ His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfilment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened & realized that these things had been written about him. ¹⁷ Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, & they were telling others about it. ¹⁸ That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign.

¹⁹ Then the Pharisees said to each other, "There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!"

CHILDREN'S TIME

FAITH CHAT:

1. If you were going to praise & thank God for one thing today...What would it be?
2. If you were going to ask God's help for one thing today...What would it be?

THE MESSAGE: THE TRUTH: JESUS IS KING

OFFERING SONG: Goodness of God (*Maranatha*)

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Preparation: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Seek Christ's given freely here! Call upon him as he draws near! Let us pray...

We believe Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. We know that means us. Heavenly Father, pour out your forgiveness in such a way that we are forever transformed. In the name of Jesus Christ.

Save us from lazy habits and faithless commitments.

Save us from paltry hopes, petty dreams, and unquenchable greed.

Save us from soft-mindedness and hard-heartedness.

Hosanna. Save us.

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion: Good and Gracious King (City Alight)

Post-Communion Blessing:

Response:

Embracing his own judgment, God gives redemption. Bearing his own wrath, God embraces us with love and forgiveness.

God's steadfast love endures forever. In Christ, he gives it to you!

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who welcomes us into the kingdom of God!

In Christ we are forgiven & restored to the Father! You are set free! You have no past to view with regret or shame; only a future filled with hope anticipating the fulfilment of all God's promises.

According to the word of Christ, Amen!

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

† _____, child of God, Christ chose to give you life by his triumph over death.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: Living Hope (*Phil Wickham*)

SHOW HIS LOVE