



Sermon Discussion Guide

Palm Sunday: The Triumphal Entry

John 11:55-12:1, 9-25

March 27 & 28, 2021

Part 1: Pray

The primary goal for our Life Group meetings is to experience Jesus in our midst in his presence and power. We want him to be at work by His Spirit ministering to us and through us to one another so that people are cared for and encouraged to lead God-pleasing lives. Ask God to reveal his truth in this passage to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. We all have a variety of lenses that affect the way we see life. What are some of the different lenses you interpret life through (ethnicity, political party, generation, for example)?

The Triumphal Entry: The Wrong Lenses.

1. The religious leaders of Jesus' day sought to kill Jesus because they viewed him through the lens of self-preservation, seeing him as a threat to the status quo. How is Jesus a threat to the human desire for self-preservation?

2. Are there things that are keeping you (or have kept you in the past) from submitting to Jesus in your heart? What feels like death to you to give up?
3. Gary Burge writes, “Palm Sunday is a happy day of flowers and dresses and new shoes. But another message carries a warning about our vision of Jesus as we celebrate. The crowd in Jerusalem had many who understood both the needs of the day and the charismatic power of Jesus. In some fashion (which perhaps they did not entirely understand) they assumed that Jesus and his movement would serve their cause. Their vision for society and Jesus’ presence could together make changes they dearly desired...**In what manner do we likewise use Jesus to fuel our own visions for social and political change? Do we ever take up the name of Jesus and attach it to our own agendas?** Jesus wants our praise and celebration. But too often we only see him through the issues of the day, issues about which we are confident he stands with us.”

Take a moment and reflect on this quote. How would you answer the questions Burge asks (bolded)?

4. Brandon said, “There is the God we want, and there is the God who is, and these two are not the same.” Who do you want God to be?
5. While it is not wrong to have multiples lenses through which we view life, it becomes a problem when something other than our faith becomes the primary lens. A helpful litmus test for determining our primary lens is to ask ourselves what we are most enthusiastic and passionate about. Take a moment and reflect on what these things are for you.

The Triumphal Entry: The Right Lens.

1. The right lens to see Jesus through is that of his humility. He is a different kind of king, a humble one. Do you find yourself embarrassed or offended by Jesus’ humility? Do you wish he was a different kind of king?

2. Jesus shows us in this passage that the Kingdom of God comes not through military might but through humility. How might this challenge and shape the way that we engage the world?

The Triumphal Entry: Putting on the Right Lens.

1. The only way we can put on the right lenses to see Jesus correctly is through the power of the Holy Spirit, daily asking him to correct our vision. He does this primarily through the ordinary means of grace—prayer, the word, and the sacraments (The Lord’s Supper and baptism). How have you experienced these ordinary means correct your way of thinking?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow Jesus?