

## Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of October 24, 2021

John 12:12-19

Sermon Series: *Death & Life*

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### WHEN DID YOU FIRST HEAR?

When did you first hear about Jesus being a king or Messiah? What happened?

The purpose of this question is about getting to know one another and to remember that we didn't always believe that Jesus is the Messiah or king. The people in this week's passage had heard enough about Him that they are celebrating His coming.

I'm always encouraged by hearing people's stories. This conversation is not their testimony. Rather, it is about when they remember first hearing that Jesus was something special, e.g. king or messiah.

### LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

This week's story was misunderstood by nearly everyone. It has been named as "Jesus triumphal entry" but could be named something very different. Let's look at one of days in Jesus' life that promised one thing but delivered something radically different.

Read the backdrop to this week story in John 12:1-11. What was the true meaning of Mary's extravagant act? (Notice especially verse seven)

Mary was preparing Jesus for His death, not His coronation.

Read our passage, John 12:12-19. What happens in this episode?

(Notes: (1) Palm branches became a symbol of Jewish nationalism, hopes of being freed of the oppression of the Romans. (2) Hosanna means, "Save us now.")

Jesus enters Jerusalem with a welcome usually reserved for a king or conqueror. The Palm branches, the shouts of Hosanna all point to their hope that He is a Messiah/king who is going to deliver them from the oppression of the Romans and provide leadership that will help them prosper.

Who all is in the company of Jesus as He rides toward Jerusalem? What did they think was happening? Did any of them understand the true nature of His actions? (See also John 2:22)

There are four names audiences/participants: (1) The people who were present when Jesus raised Lazarus, (2) The people/crowd in the outlying areas who have come for the festival, (3) the religious authorities, specifically the Pharisees, and (4) the disciples.

Many acted as though their Messiah/king was entering Jerusalem. Others were probably caught up in the excitement.

No one seemed to understand Jesus intent to die as a ransom.

In other places in history, a conquering king would enter a city on a war horse. How was Jesus' entry different? What might this mean? (See also Zechariah 9:9)

It is important to read not only the prophecy that Jesus would be mounted on a donkey, but also the complete description. (See below)

**Zechariah 9:9** <sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Jesus came as the Lamb of God, destined to die for all people.

What was the fear of the Pharisees? Was this true? Did their efforts stop this from happening?

They feared that people were coming to Jesus. This was disturbing for several reasons. First, that they were following Him and not the religious leaders. Second, that this disturbance could cause a problem with the Roman authorities. And third, they might lose power or authority or influence.

As we know, their efforts did not stop this from happening.

Jesus chose to ride into the city. How does this fit the identity of Jesus as presented in the book of John? How is this such a contrast to what we might think He would do? How does this fit with His mission and purpose?

Throughout the book of John, Jesus said that the religious authorities would arrest Him and put Him to death. To enter Jerusalem in such a public and celebrated way would lead to His suffering. Yet He went because this was always His plan. It was his choice to be arrested, to suffer, and to die. No one took His life from Him – He gave it.

Throughout the book of John, we see that He is God, Son of God, Messiah, the creator, etc. He humbled Himself, allowed the rulers to torture and kill Him. This was his mission to fulfill His purpose to save us.

Many lyrics in poems and songs ask a question about our personal reception of King Jesus. Do you believe Jesus is the king of your life? If He is king, then how are we to respond to Him?

Yes

## DISCUSS TOGETHER

What has impressed you about the character of Jesus in this episode?

Jesus knew that (1) He was going to be arrested, tortured and killed, and (2) no one, not even his closest friends understood. I am so impressed by His compassion, His humility, His courage, and His resolve to love the very people who will kill Him.

In what ways do we sometimes wish for Jesus to be more like the king people were expecting instead of a humble Messiah?

I hate “the bad guys,” the bullies, and those who harm the innocent. Sometimes I wish Jesus would destroy those guys. Also, there is so much corruption, mistreatment, dishonesty, etc. in our world. Why doesn’t He just wipe out the evil doers?

But– I don’t deserve mercy either. My sins make me guilty and in need of a Savior.

Jesus was fulfilling many prophecies about the Messiah, but the people missed it. On Sunday, Todd said, “I want to consider the promises that Jesus is fulfilling that I tend to miss often.” What are the promises or actions that Jesus is doing in our lives that are easy to miss or dismiss?

For me, the biggest missed promise has to be about prayer. It is so easy to wish instead of ask, to work harder instead of pray, and to hurry instead of wait on the Lord.

May our Lord’s compassion and grace keep you encouraged this week.

Steve