

Spiritual Growth Questions in preparation for Holy Week

- I. **Read John 12:1-8.** Discuss why was it important for Jesus to be in Jerusalem for Passover? How does the anointing of oil reveal what would happen later that week? How do Mary (worship), Martha (work) and Lazarus (witness) prepare us for passion week? Why is each one's example important?
- II. **Read John 12:9-19.** Consider the three crowds that gathered in these verses: Passover visitors 12:12,18, local people who had seen Lazarus raised 12:17, and religious leaders who were concerned about what Jesus would do 12:19? What stands out to you about each one? What are the modern-day correlations with these groups?
- III. **Read John 12:13-15 & Zechariah 9:9-16.** Peace comes because this king has defeated the enemies by overpowering and overthrowing them. The humility of this king is seen in his welcoming his people into his kingdom under his rule, offering them salvation (Zech.9:9), establishing a blood covenant with them (v. 11), shielding them from all future enemies (v. 15) and establishing them as His flock, (v.16). What do you think the crowds expected Jesus to do? How does and how will Jesus fulfill this prophecy?
- IV. **Read Hebrews 4:14-16,5:2.** Jesus is our King who is also a High Priest. What stands out as you read these verses and consider how the King of Kings thinks about you? How can these thoughts prepare us for Holy Week? How does Hebrews 5:2 (He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward) influence our message and thoughts about others who need the Lord?
- V. **Read Matthew 20:25-28.** Jesus is the King of Kings, the most powerful ruler ever! What stands out about Jesus' kingship from these verses? How can His example help you this week?
- VI. **Read Philippians 2:5-11.** Read these verses two times. Ask God to prepare you for Holy Week. **Share any insights that surface from this reflection.**

Prayer: Dear Sovereign Lord, I know that you are a different kind of king. I realize that every knee shall bow, and tongue confess your Lordship. You modeled a life of humility, service, and worship. Make me like you, Lord. May my life reflect your rule in my soul. I am grateful that you have dealt gently with me when I have been "wayward". I look to you the author and completer of my faith to bring the grace and mercy I need to serve you this week. I yield my body, mind, and spirit to you right now. Your kingdom come; your will be done. All for your glory! In Jesus Name, Amen!

A New Kind of King, Kingdom, and Power

John 12:1-19

Pastor John Lloyd

April 2, 2023, Palm Sunday

We are here today to celebrate a new kind of king, kingdom, and power. A king who didn't come to be served but to serve. A king who is not concerned about geopolitical boundaries but whose rule in our lives brings liberation from our selfish ways and focus. Jesus's entire earthly ministry points to this Holy Week. Palm Sunday really sets up the demonstration of the power of God. It is during this week that we will see Jesus great power over sin, death and the spiritual forces on this earth. There's no need to live in fear. The more we surrender to Jesus, the more we will understand and desire His will in our lives. I welcome your Kingship and power in my life. Make me like you, Lord.

John 12:1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. 3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" 6 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." 9 When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. 12 The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" 14 And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, 15 "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" 16 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. 17 The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. 18 The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

Big Idea: Jesus is a different kind of King! Our understanding of His kingship grows as we submit to his rule in our lives. **Make me like you Lord!**

Why is Palm Sunday important?

I. Palm Sunday _____ .

John 12:1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

Five hundred years earlier Zechariah had written: 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* Zechariah 9:9 (see question 3)

I Kings 8:56 “Blessed be the Lord who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant.

**God keeps his promises. I can depend on the promises of God!
Jesus is trustworthy! I can trust Him! Make me like you Lord!**

II. Palm Sunday anticipates the _____ of _____ as _____.

John 12:3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 7 Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. (See question 1)

John 12:13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” 14 And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, (Psalm 118:26)

John 12:15 “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” 16 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” 37 Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.

**As I understand the rule of Jesus in my life,
I can entrust all that I have into His care. Make me like you Lord!**

III. Palm Sunday reveals as I _____ to the rule of Jesus _____
_____ will be given.

John 12:16 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.

John 12:9 When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. (**see question 2 about the crowds**)

John 12:17 The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. 18 The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (see question 4)

“Not only can Jesus pull us out of the hole of sin, but he also climbs in and bears our burden. He is able to sympathize- he literally co-suffers with us.”
Thomas Goodwin

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

“Jesus is inclined from his heart and affections to give help and relief. He is inwardly moved by our trials with a sense of fellow feeling of them.” Owen

Hebrews 5:2 He can deal gently with the **ignorant** and **wayward** since he himself is beset with weakness.

Our sinfulness runs so deep that a tepid measure of gentleness from Jesus would not be enough. But as deep as our sinfulness runs, ever deeper runs his gentleness. Look inside yourselves, we can only anticipate harshness from heaven. Looking out to Christ, we can anticipate only gentleness. Dane Ortlund

Luke 24:26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” “At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow.”

Jesus is our rightful King. Since Jesus is King, we uphold Him as both Lord and Christ. We live for Him alone. Make me like you Lord!