

Growth Group Questions

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

Introduction

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Share as a group a favorite “old” Holy Week tradition you grew up with and a favorite “newer” tradition you’ve come to value.

Into the Word – Zechariah 9:9-10

1. Zechariah was a prophet in the years of rebuilding while Israel was coming back from exile. (520 BC to be exact). What kinds of rebuilding needed to be done? What comfort do you see for the people of his time in this text?
2. Describe the meaning of each description of the king.
 - Righteous
 - Having salvation
 - Gentle
 - He will proclaim peace to the nations
 - His rule will extend from sea to sea
3. What is the right way to understand the peace Jesus brings? How do some misunderstand this promise?

Into the Word – Philippians 2:5-11

4. Verse six gets yet another new translation in NIV2011. Where it translates “something to be used to his own advantage” I prefer “something to be grasped.” Even better, “something to be held onto.” What did Jesus give up to save us?

5. Jesus’ humility led to suffering and crucifixion (v. 8) but where did that lead (vv. 9-11)?
6. When will every tongue confess Jesus as Lord? Does that mean everyone will believe and be saved?

Into the Word – Matthew 21:1-11

7. When was the last time “all Jerusalem was stirred” because of Jesus? What was he called at that time?
8. What is the significance of the title “Son of David”?
9. Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem in this way? (Give at least two reasons – to fulfill something and to show something.)
10. In what ways does Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem show his humility and difference from other kings?
11. What does “hosanna” mean? Why is that especially fitting as Jesus comes into Jerusalem this time?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, Savior and King, we rejoice with the crowds as we think of the parade you experienced as you came into Jerusalem to save us from our sins. Keep our eyes open to the salvation you bring and help us never to doubt your rule over the world, in our hearts, and in glory forever. Rule now among us, and return quickly to bring us to glory everlasting. Amen.