

Harvest

Evangelical Free Church

Join us in being on mission with God!

OUR VISION

To continually mature and grow as a united body of Jesus-imitators who live out God's greatest commandment to "Love" by exalting God and serving one another, and His greatest commission to "Go" by reaching into and shaping our local, regional, and global communities.

Palm Sunday: "A Parade of Expectations"

Luke 19:28-44

Getting Started

After an introductory time, discuss the following questions in your group or class.

Do you like parades? What is your favorite parade to watch or be a part of? Why?

Why do people love parades? What is it about parades that can keep people entertained for hours just watching people go by?

Talk about the text:

1. As you read the scene that unfolds on Jesus' journey into Jerusalem, how does it differ from the scene that unfolds just five days later on Friday? How do you think you would feel if you knew what Jesus knew?

2. Why did Jesus choose to enter into Jerusalem riding on the colt instead of a chariot or even just walking in? Hint: Read Matthew 21:4-5. (Bonus points for knowing where in Scripture Matthew is quoting from.)

3. What would your reaction be to strangers telling you that they were taking your hard earned property because "The Lord needs it"? Would you believe them? Would you let them take it? Why did this owner let them take it?



Luke 19:28-44

28After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 30"Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'" 32Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. 33As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34They replied, "The Lord needs it." 35They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. 37When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: 38"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" 39Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" 40"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." 41As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. 43The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. 44They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

4. What does the text say was the reason the people began to rejoice about? What kind of expectations do you think they might have had for Jesus?

5. If you read Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11 and John 12:12-19 you will see that people laid their coats down or branches from trees down in the road as Jesus passed by. Why would they do this?

6. In all four Gospel accounts the crowd shouts “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”. What do you think the crowd was hoping Jesus would do for them?

7. The word “Hosanna” is shouted out. It literally means “save us”. Why would the crowd shout this out? What did they want to be saved from? What did Jesus come to save us from?

8. Why did the Pharisees have such a problem with what the crowd was saying and doing?

9. The Pharisees were already cooking up a way to kill Jesus, how do you think this scene would make them feel? What would be going through their heads at this point?

10. Jesus response to the Pharisees is “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” Why would He say this?

Palm Sunday: A Parade of Expectations

John 12:12-19

12The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the King of Israel!" 14Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written,

15"Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion;

see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

16At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

17Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. 18Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet him. 19So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

11. As Jesus reaches the city of Jerusalem He weeps over it. Why?

Expectations:

12. John 12:16 says that the disciples did not understand all of what was happening until after Jesus was glorified. If they did not understand, then what do you think their expectations were for Jesus?

13. What do you think the disciples were hoping to get for themselves out of all of this? (Read Mark 10:35-45 for a possible hint)

14. What had Jesus called the disciples to? What do we know about the lives (and deaths) of the disciples after Jesus returns to heaven? How did this differ from what they might have been expecting?

15. What kind of people (other than the disciples and Pharisees) could have been in the crowd? What kinds of things would motivate them to worship Jesus as He traveled down the road?

16. What could be some of the expectations these members of the crowd might have for Jesus? What did they want from Him?





Reaching Up and Reaching Out

HARVST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

524 River Hills Dr. P.O. Box 291

Phone: 515-733-5360
Web: www.harvestefree.org
E-mail: office@harvestefree.org



What about you:

17. What is your motivation for worshipping and following Jesus? Do you ever have expectations of Jesus that might be considered selfish reasons? Like what?

Four horizontal lines for writing an answer to question 17.

18. What should our motivation be for following Jesus? Is it wrong to have expectations of Jesus? Why or why not?

Four horizontal lines for writing an answer to question 18.

PERSONAL REFLECTION: If Jesus was to ride into your life right now, would He weep over you? Are you missing the point of why He came?