



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 24th March 2024



Pit Stop For Palm Sunday. Derek Page

Warm Up

How do you know if you are healthy? What are the signs that your body needs attention?
What about your soul or spirit? What are the signs that your soul or spirit needs attention?

Background and context

Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey. A conquering Roman general would ride into the conquered city at the head of a parade as a sign of his power and victory over the enemy. Jesus is parodying this. On Palm Sunday He was recognised by the people as the King come to save them. It marks the first day of Holy Week in the run up to Easter. The whole of the Lent season is a time to prepare our soul /spirit for remembering the events of Easter and their historical and spiritual significance. The events of Palm Sunday serve as a "pit stop" and enable us to reflect on who Jesus is and why He came to earth.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ: Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12: 12-19. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

1. What are the similarities and differences between these accounts?
2. Was this a spontaneous event? How do you know? What do we learn about Jesus' understanding of who He was?
3. Look up the meaning of the word Hosanna. What can we learn about the crowd's understanding of Jesus? How do the cries of the crowd reveal who Jesus is and His mission?
4. In Luke's account Jesus stops and weeps for Jerusalem. Why does He do this? What does this reveal about Him?
5. Why do you think the Pharisees and teachers of the law were upset by the events of Palm Sunday?
6. How would you summarise this story in 3 simple statements?

Discipleship and application

7. **Sovereignty, salvation and security.** Reflect of how these three words apply to Jesus in this passage . What can we learn about Jesus that will encourage us in our daily life?
8. Nothing Jesus ever did was random or by accident. Why is this story so significant in the light of what was to come next, (Good Friday, Easter Day)?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.

