



PALM SUNDAY

WHO IS THIS?

Scott Haus
April 5, 2020

GROUP ICE BREAKER

What's the most creative way you have kept yourself occupied at home during the shelter in place?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will remember touch can communicate what words can never say.
- I will remember touch has the power to heal.
- I will offer the touch of reassurance for those who are experiencing fear.
- I will work to redeem touch where it has been damaged.
- I will not touch another person inappropriately.
- I will ask God to give me the power to love the people in my life.
- I will immerse myself in the Gospels and learn to love like Jesus loved.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem came at the start of Passover, which celebrates the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The city was flooded with pilgrims bringing lambs to be sacrificed at the Temple. The *Triumphus* was a ceremony usually held for a returning victorious military commander, but in this case held to celebrate Jesus. People were acting as if a coronation was happening; they expected they were about to see a revolution. John highlights the concept of hindsight, the experience of looking back, and John admits like we oftentimes do, that "We missed it. We didn't see it." That is due to the tension between when what we want or "need" doesn't match up with what God is doing. This tension is when our expectation and His intention are not in alignment. These people were expecting a Messiah that would free them from foreign rule, but Jesus came to free us from the power of sin and death. Our entire faith, our entire belief system, is built on hindsight. We depend on the past to see what is important enough to us in the present that we can trust our futures to that faith. The people of Jerusalem asked, "Who is this?" Jesus asked this way, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). What will your hindsight say was your answer? Who do you say Jesus is in the midst of tragedy and uncertainty?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Exodus 12:21-30. The Passover was a celebration of God delivering the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. In the final of the 10 plagues, they were to sacrifice a lamb and spread blood on their doorposts as a sign for the judgement to pass over. How is this symbolic of what Jesus came to do?
2. Hosanna means "save now." What did the people expect Jesus would save them from? What are our expectations of Jesus today?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

3. Have you had a moment of hindsight in life where you realized you missed what God was doing? Share with the group what caused you to “miss it.”
4. Discuss the tension that can exist between our expectations of God and what are often His intentions.
5. We depend on the past to see what is important enough to us in the present that we can trust our futures to that faith. Discuss what that means to you.
6. If you were to be asked, “Who is this?” in reference to Jesus today, how would you answer?
7. Read Isaiah 9:2-7. Of the names Isaiah gives to the coming Messiah (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace), which one resonates with you today? Why?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will adjust my expectations to be in alignment with God’s intentions for me.
- I will look back on what Jesus has done and trust my present and future to him.
- I will answer the question “who do you say that I am” through my attitudes and actions.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Mark 11:1-3
- John 12:12
- Matthew 21:4-5
- Zechariah 9:9
- Mark 11:4-8
- Luke 19:37
- Matthew 21:9
- John 12:13
- John 12:16
- Luke 19:39, 40
- Matthew 21:10
- Isaiah 9:6-7