

# Small Group Discussion Guide

## "Who Is This?"

*Palm Sunday Sermon Series*

Matthew 21:10–11 | March 30, 2025

*“And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, ‘Who is this?’ And the crowds said, ‘This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.’” — Matthew 21:10–11 (ESV)*

### Discussion Questions

#### 1. Getting Started

Several times in the Gospels we see people asking the question about Jesus, “Who is this?”

Why was that question asked so frequently? When you first encountered Jesus, what was your initial impression of him? Was he what you expected?

#### 2. Whose Jesus?

The sermon describes several groups in the crowd — the disciples wanting victorious Jesus, the Pharisees wanting ritual Jesus, the Zealots wanting military Jesus. Do you experience different “versions” of Jesus in our own culture? What are some of the common perspectives that we encounter?

If someone were to approach you today wanting to know who Jesus was/is, what would you say?

#### 3. The Mismatch

Do you think that Matthew presents Jesus as a King riding on a donkey? N.T. Wright says the Palm Sunday story is “an object lesson in the mismatch between our expectations and God’s answer.” Can you think of a time when God’s answer to your need looked different than what you hoped for? Was this a positive or negative discovery?

#### 4. Open Our Eyes

The two blind beggars cried out and Jesus stopped, asking them: “What do you want me to do for you?”

Their answer wasn’t money — it was sight. If Jesus asked you that question this week, what would be your honest answer? What is it you most deeply need from him right now?

#### 5. Parade, Protest, and Funeral Procession

Fred Craddock described the Triumphal Entry as “a parade, a protest, and a funeral procession.” The crowd only saw the parade. Jesus knew it was all three. How does it change the meaning of Palm Sunday for you to hold all three realities together? What does it mean that Jesus rode willingly into all of it?

#### 6. Come and See

Philip’s invitation to Nathanael was simple: “Come and see.” The sermon frames Palm Sunday as an invitation to come and see, come and pray, and come and praise. As you enter Holy Week, which of these three feels most needed for you personally right now? How might your group support one another in this week?