



PALM SUNDAY

Growth Group Opener:

Have you ever welcomed someone into your life with excitement, only to discover later that their presence will cost you something?

Read Matthew 21:1-11

Why do you think Jesus gave such specific instructions in v1-3?

What kind of king does Zechariah 9:9 describe, as referenced in v4-5?

How does a king riding a donkey contrast with what the people were likely hoping for?
What does this communicate about the nature of Jesus' kingdom?

In v8, we see an act of honor typically reserved for a conquering king. What were the people declaring about Jesus by doing this?

The crowd shouts "Hosanna," meaning "Save us!" Given the political and social context of Israel under Roman occupation, what were they likely asking to be saved from?

If you are honest, when you cry out to God to save you, what are you asking to be saved from? How does that compare with what God may actually be doing in your life?

The word "stirred" in v10 can mean "agitated" as Jesus' arrival disrupted the city.

Has there been a time when Jesus' presence disrupted your own life?

How do the crowds identify Jesus in v11? How does that identity fall short?

Where do you see people today acknowledging Jesus as a good teacher, a wise figure, or an inspiring leader, but stopping short of surrendering to him as Lord and King?

In what ways are you tempted to follow a version of Jesus that fits your preferences rather than the Jesus who calls you to lay down your life and follow him?

Palm Sunday reminds us that the road to resurrection goes through the cross. Is there something in your life right now that feels like Good Friday—something painful, uncertain, or dying—that God may be using as part of a bigger story?

What do we learn about God in these passages?

Is there anything you feel the Holy Spirit inviting you to look at more closely?

Action Step:

This week, read through Matthew 21-27, following Jesus from his entry into Jerusalem to the cross. As you read, ask yourself: am I following the Jesus who actually is, or like the crowds, the Jesus I wish he were? Where am I still trying to make him into the kind of king that serves my comfort rather than transforms my character? Bring what you find to him in prayer.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for sending Jesus as Lord and King. Help us to see who he actually is, rather than who we may want him to be. Help us to accept that he has saved us, and obey him wholeheartedly out of gratitude for all he has done. May we walk with him wherever