

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Mar 25, 2018

“When the City Was Stirred” Pastor Hall 8:15 Pastor Temple 9:30 & 10:55

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Is there anything that came up this past week in regard to the previous witness or application points that you would like to share? (Hiding God’s Word, Psalm 119:9-16)
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- If we polled two good friends from your early teen years, what adjective would they use to describe you? (credit, Lyman Coleman)

Review the Sermon (25 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Matthew 21:1-11. As you go through the discussion questions that follow, know that it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵ “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.

⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” ¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- Jews would have been familiar with the prophecy in verse 5 from Zechariah 9:9 and the historical precedent of King David's son and successor, Solomon, riding on a donkey down the Mount of Olives to be anointed as the next king of Israel (1 Kings 1:32-33). Jesus' riding the donkey was an unusual sight that quickly gained attention, especially given His celebrity-like status as a religious figure. In presenting Himself in this way to Israel, what kind of king was Jesus claiming to be?
- In verse 9, the crowds met Jesus with palms and loud cries of "Hosanna – Lord Save Us!" What were they calling to be saved from and what might we infer about the kind of leader they wanted?
- In verse 11, what were the crowds missing in their answer to the question, "Who is this?"
- Jesus revealed his identity in the triumphant entry into Jerusalem is through symbolism, geography and Jewish prophecy. While in ministry in gentile territory in Caesarea Philippi, Jesus' also reveals something about his identity. Would a volunteer please read Matthew 16:13-20.
- How does the identity revealed in these verses compare with the crowd's understandings of Jesus in the main sermon text?
- How does this account also distinguish Jesus' role from that of a prophet?

Personalize the Sermon (15 min)

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon?
- How would you respond if someone were to ask you "Who was Jesus?"
- In Matthew 16, Jesus affirms Peter's declaration about his identity and speaks further about His church (ecclesia- or assembly of people) that is being built that has the keys to the kingdom of heaven. How might we get past just being confused in a crowd to having clarity in Jesus' "church"?

Apply the Sermon (15-20 min)

- Christ Church's daily devotionals and challenges for this week was provided on the Sunday morning handout, and is available at www.christchurchsl.org/lent where you can subscribe to receive daily devotional emails during lent.
- As part of the Holy Week Wholly Water program, would you be willing to just drink water this week and put the money saved toward the special offering for "Tent of Nations," a peace organization in Bethlehem?
- In all the confusion in Jerusalem that day, it could be that the donkey held the most positive response or role with Jesus that day. In what ways might we also in humble service, help connect Jesus with those He came for?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- Who might you consider inviting to the Maundy Thursday, or Good Friday or Easter services this week at Christ Church? See www.christchurchsl.org for service times.
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.