

Life Group Homework

For the week of April 14, 2019

MY STORY

1. Would you rather swim in Jell-O or cooked spaghetti? Why?
2. What did you get out of last week's study?

QUICK REVIEW

3. Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

Many of us, if not all, have read the story of Jesus's triumphal entry multiple times. We read about this moment in the life of Jesus as He was wrapping up His earthly ministry. We look back and connect this week with the crucifixion and resurrection because we know it's coming. However, the disciples and people on the side of the road had different expectations. They saw the miracles, His unique teaching, and the authority in which Jesus taught. We will unpack their expectations and explore how they were blindsided by reality. We will discuss what we can learn from them.

Mark 11:1-11(ESV)

¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.' " ⁴ And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵ And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷ And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹ And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

¹¹ And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

4. What is an *expectation*? How do we define the word?
5. What words were the crowds cheering over Jesus?
6. What does *Hosanna* mean?

Psalm 118:25-26 (ESV)

²⁵ Save us, we pray, O LORD!

O LORD, we pray, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

7. If the crowds were cheering "Hosanna!", and *Hosanna* means "save us, we pray", what did they want to be saved from?

Zechariah 9:9

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation is he,

humble and mounted on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

In the verses before Zechariah 9:9, the Messiah is portrayed as a coming King who will defeat and overthrow the enemies of Israel.

8. In thinking about the passage from Zechariah and the people quoting Psalm 118 on the road to Jerusalem, what could their expectations of Jesus have been?
9. Why is their expectation of Jesus at the beginning of this week important to understand?

TAKING IT HOME

In the previous section one of the truths that became evident is the people had high, but misunderstood, expectations of what Jesus came to do. They thought He was going to come as the king and change everything right then and there. However, they didn't understand that Jesus had to die and be the perfect sacrifice to pay for sin, and *then* return as King. To use Pastor Cheryl's words, "They were sideswiped by life." They were not alone. John the Baptist had a crisis of faith, and we will unpack some of these truths.

John 1:32-34 (ESV)

³² And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

10. What did John bear witness to?
11. What was John told to expect regarding the one who would baptize people with the Spirit? Why is this significant?

12. How would your faith be validated if you saw the Father do for Jesus what John saw?

Luke 7:20-23 (ESV)

²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

13. Why would John the Baptist send people to ask Jesus if He was the Messiah?
14. After seeing the Spirit descend like a dove on Jesus, why would John doubt?
15. Have you ever experienced a crisis of faith like John?
16. How does Jesus respond to John? Does His response seem odd to you?
17. When we experience moments similar to John, and our faith is tested, what is important to remember?
18. Jesus told John's men, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard." What will you tell people that you have seen and heard about Jesus?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read Mark 11 and think about the following questions.

19. What were the expectations the people had of Jesus?
20. What expectations do you have of Jesus in your own life? Do they line up with the truth about Jesus in God's word?
21. Where have you missed His power of transformation in your life?
22. What can you do to align your heart and mind with His work?

Palm Sunday

Mark 11:4-11 TPT

"So they went and found the colt outside in the street, tied to a gate. When they started to untie it, some people standing there said to them, "Why are untying that colt?" They answered just as Jesus had told them: "The master needs it, and he will send it back to you soon." So the bystanders let them go. The disciples brought the colt to Jesus and piled their cloaks and prayer shawls on the young donkey, and Jesus rode upon it. Many people carpeted the road in front of him with their cloaks and prayer shawls, while others gathered palm branches and spread them before him. Jesus rode in the center of the procession, with crowds going before him and behind him. They all shouted in celebration, "Bring the victory! We welcome the one coming with the blessings of being sent from the Lord Yahweh! Blessings rest on this kingdom he ushers in right now—the kingdom of our father David! Bring us the victory in the highest realms of heaven!" Jesus rode through the gates of Jerusalem and up to the temple. After looking around at everything, he left for Bethany with the Twelve to spend the night, for it was already late in the day."

It's the TRUTH you KNOW (believe, act on, and live by) that SETS you FREE!

Jesus' first miracle represents LIFE and ABUNDANCE.

Jesus reaches out to TOUCH the UNTOUCHABLE.

Jesus is HEALER and RESURRECTION.

When we WELCOME JESUS as Savior and King into our lives, we begin to experience PERSONAL SALVATION and TRANSFORMATION!

HE CAN CHANGE YOUR STORY!!