

The account of Palm Sunday picks up at the fever pitch of Jesus' ministry. The first three years had largely been under the radar. Recently Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, healed blind Bartimaeus, and converted Zacchaeus the Jewish tax collector. Large crowds were following Jesus everywhere, and many were headed to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

Read John 12:17-19. Many were coming to see Jesus because He raised Lazarus from the dead. Why did this concern the Jewish leaders?

Read Matthew 21:1-8. Passover was a celebration of deliverance. The Jews anticipated a king that would deliver them from the Romans, and the Romans wanted to squash any uprising. Why was it significant that to both groups that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey rather than a horse?

Read Luke 19:37-42.

- Why would the Jewish leaders be concerned about the crowd shouting, "Blessed is the King, ..."?
- As Prince of Peace, was political peace Jesus' primary objective? What was His purpose?

Discuss the attitudes and postures of the following groups present at the Triumphal Entry:

- Romans – Domineering pride under the guise of authority
- Jewish leaders – Manipulative pride under the guise of spiritual righteousness
- Crowds – Mob mentality, blindly swept away with popular thought
- Followers of Christ – Awe and bewilderment
- Jesus – Compassionate, on mission, and focused

We each have likely identified with more than one of the groups. More importantly, who are you becoming?

Read John 12:14-16. Is it comforting that the disciples' initial awe and bewilderment later became understanding through the Scriptures?

Read Rev 19:11-16. As we search the Scriptures, by the power of the Spirit, during uncertain times and seasons of doubt we find that Jesus is coming again. What is the significance of the white horse?

In closing, read through the titles of the devotional "newspaper" that was available on campus and is available on the WHFC website. Also discuss if there is anyone you should invite to the Easter gathering and/or to your home group.