

HOME CHURCH SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

MATTHEW 20:29- 21:11

rejected

The Glory of God Riding on a Burro

1. Discuss Brad's statement from this week's sermon that Jesus going to the cross is "the crescendo of human history." Around 35% of the four gospels is focused on the last week of Jesus' life. Why do you think that is? Why does God put a spotlight and magnifying glass on this period of time in the life of Jesus?

2. Read Zach 9:9. How can this righteous person be both victorious and humble at the same time? Read and compare Hebrews 1:1-3 and 2:9. What does this teach us about the nature of God and how Jesus embodied His "upside down kingdom?"

The Law of Proportion
In the Gospel of Matthew
20 Chapters = 35 years
8 Chapters = 7 days

Upside Down Values of Our King
"They all were looking for a king.
To slay their foes, and lift them high:
You came a little baby thing. That made
a woman cry..." George MacDonald

Jesus had now fulfilled every prophecy about the coming Messiah including this entrance to the city. Recent miracles help trigger the spontaneous response of the crowds shouting Hosanna to this Davidic king. Before the week is over the shouts will turn to "Crucify Him."

3. Some in the crowds were asking "Who is this?" How much do you think "the crowds" today understand Jesus' nature and mission? What are some of the notions you have heard of who Jesus is? How do they fit with His stated purpose to give His life a ransom for sin?

4. What inevitably happens when we bring our own interpretations of Jesus that do not line up with Scripture? How do we feel when that Jesus does not live up to our expectation or priorities?

5. How would you answer a friend who asks you, "Who is Jesus?"

6. There is the popular safe little Jesus who doesn't require much but is always there to help us fulfill our selfish wants and goals. The real Jesus is our Lord and Master who gave up His life to save us from our sins and deserves all our trust and affections. Who is Jesus to you?

What kind of God do we have when the King of the universe rides a lowly donkey, comes not to be served but to serve, gives his life in sacrifice for us, and weeps in grief for the people in the city of rejecters who will soon face terrible consequences for their choices?

Spend some time in awe of Him and worshiping Him.

*As you conclude, spend some time praying together using the prayer guide.



THE WELL Helping people connect to God and to each other in every neighborhood

THINKING OF OTHERS IN A CRISIS

Read this Prayer in the time of a Pandemic

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working
from home remember those who must
choose between preserving their health
or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care
for our children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot
physically wrap our arms around each other,
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

God's Protection (Pray that God would
stop the virus through vaccines, or
miraculous intervention.)

God's Provision (Financial Institutions,
Job Shut Down, Hourly Wage Earners,
Fixed Income, Food Supply, Stores.)

Those in Authority (Wisdom and Unity
for Police, Fire, Gov -Local, State,
National, International Leaders)

Medical Personnel (Protection over Rx,
Drs, Nurses, & Hospital Staff; Wisdom for
Researchers, etc.)

Hearts of the People (They would turn to
Christ during this crisis; People would
come to faith in Christ, the nominal would
be awakened, and believers would go
deeper in their faith.)

Those at Greatest Risk (Healing for the
Sick, Compromised Immune Systems,
Elderly, Homeless.)

Our Schools (Wisdom for Leaders,
Teachers, Staff and Support Personnel;
Food for Kids, etc.)

The Church & Nonprofits (Members and
Elders, Pastors and Staff, Compassion
Care and Witness, etc.)

Family / Friends (They Feel Supported &
Loved, Enriching Family Time, Health,
Specific Needs and Opportunity for
Ministry and Witness, etc.)

Yourself (Ask the Holy Spirit to
specifically lead you as to how you can
be a light for Christ during this time in
your three circles: Family/Friends,
Neighborhood and Community.)