

12 The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors 13 took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted,

“Praise God!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hail to the King of Israel!”

14 Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said:

15 “Don’t be afraid, people of Jerusalem.

Look, your King is coming,

riding on a donkey’s colt.”

16 His disciples didn’t understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him.

17 Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it. 18 That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. 19 Then the Pharisees said to each other, “There’s nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!”

—*John 12:12-19*

### ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

What are you grateful for today?

Have two or three people read John 12:12-19 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

In John’s Gospel, the Triumphal Entry follows on the heels of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. If you were living in Jerusalem, how would news about that miracle affect you?

Read John 11:47-48. What were the Jewish leaders afraid of? Were they correct about Jesus?

What kind of king did the people want Jesus to be?

Read John 12:20-27. What does this passage mean for Jesus’s purpose and ministry? What does it mean for those who follow Him?

Consider the history of the Church for the last two thousand years. What are some ways that followers of Christ tried to take the crown instead of the cross?

Read John 13:12-17. How does Jesus demonstrate His expectations for His followers?

What does it look like for you to pursue the cross over the crown? At work? At home? In your neighborhood?

How can your group pray for each other this week?