

Peoples Church Small Group Questions

Date: April 9, 2017, Palm Sunday

Speaker: Pastor Dale Oquist

Message: Rescue series

Pastor Dale read from John 12:9-19. (In talking with his rabbi friend in Jerusalem, rabbinical tradition taught that if the Messiah came into Jerusalem on a horse, that would indicate that the Jewish people were worthy of the Messiah; if not on a horse, that they were not worthy.)

Looking back, we see in the Bible that God views sin very seriously. Adam and Eve transgressed in the Garden and the consequences for their sin had immediate effect. In order that they not die instantly, God killed an animal and clothed them with the skin of the animal, indicating that their sin was covered. Moses instituted the Passover in Egypt, showing the Jews that the blood of an innocent lamb on the doorposts of a home would prevent the angel of death from entering that home and taking the firstborn son. Leviticus reinforced the sacrificial system in Israel, that the spilled blood of a third-party animal was always needed for sins to be covered.

1. How seriously do we view sin? Does it match God's view?

Moving forward, Dale shared from Isaiah 53:5-7 that a *person* would now become a sacrifice for sins, and that this sacrifice (explained in the New Testament) would *remove* our sins and not just cover them, and that this would be a perfect (or once-for-all) sacrifice, never having to be repeated. John the Baptist, in John 1:29, said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem during his three-year ministry, it was usually done quietly through the sheep gate. But when He entered on Palm Sunday, He entered with much fanfare, with the people shouting, "Hosanna!" (Meaning "to save" or "to rescue"). The palm branches likewise were a political statement, advocating rebellion against Rome; the Jews wanted a military emancipator and not a Savior. They were looking for an earthly solution for their deepest needs.

2. What earthly solutions do we turn to daily, instead of coming to Jesus for our deepest needs?

Taking it home, Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the tenth day of Nissan. This was the day that Joshua entered the Promised Land, coming up to Jericho from the Jordan; Jesus likewise came up from the Jordan to Jerusalem. In Exodus 12:3, the Passover lamb was prepared, or selected, on the tenth day of Nissan. So, Jesus entering Jerusalem on this day was a spectacle to the people that God was selecting Jesus to be the Passover Lamb in a few days, just as all the Jewish families were selecting their own lamb, in accordance with the Law. When Jesus was crucified at 9 am on Good Friday, the silver trumpets sounded from the Temple, as they always did on Passover; when Jesus died at 3 pm, the silver trumpets also sounded, indicating that the sacrifices were concluded--"It is finished!"

3. What personal lambs do you select to "pay your way" to God?
4. Have you, instead, chosen the Father's selection, Jesus, to remove your sins?
5. What does that mean to your life now?