

SESSION 1

GREATER LOVE

the amazing story of hope and redemption

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READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

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OPEN

As you open up today, try out this icebreaker to get conversation started: If you had a time machine that would work only once, what point in the future or in history would you visit?

Starting off in Matthew chapter 21 we see the most important installment of a king that has ever happened. There are eighty nine chapters of the gospels collectively and 29 chapters of the gospels, exactly 1/3 of them are spent on the last few hours of Jesus' life and ministry. This is to tell us something about how important this point in time is and critical it is that we learn from it!

What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

WATCH

What jumped out at you from the video?

INTRODUCTION

Jesus didn't own anything so how did He get a donkey to ride?

Jesus had 2 of His disciples go to the next village where there would be a donkey and her colt tied up. Jesus told those disciples to untie the donkey & her colt and bring them to Him. If anyone would ask what they were doing they were just to say that the Lord needs them and they would be allowed to take them.

What might this tell us about Jesus at the outset of the lesson? How does this underscore his kingship?

From this text and many others it is clear that Jesus was always in control of the events that affected His life. He initiated His own coronation when He sent two disciples to procure the mount on which He would ride into Jerusalem. These two disciples were sent into the city to - seemingly randomly - a young donkey that had never been ridden, Only an all knowing Jesus could have accounted for these two donkeys or the fact that people would have questioned the

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disciples for taking them. This alone is a sign of the authority that Jesus possessed!

READ

READ Matthew 21:1-10

Read Jesus' instructions in verses 2-3. How would you have felt if he gave those instructions to you? Why do you think the disciples obeyed him?

Answers may vary.

Put your self in the shoes of the owners of the donkey, Jesus may ask us at any time to use what is already His for His service. It may involve our time, talents or treasure. Are we as ready as the owners of the donkey to use what God has given for His service when called upon?

Answers may vary.

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the crowd treated him like a king. What were they expecting of him?

Answers may vary.

How was Jesus different from what the people were expecting?

They wanted a king that would overthrow the Roman government. But Jesus didn't come to set up a kingdom here on earth at this time. Many people today and people in all times want Jesus but they want the Jesus of their own devising, they want the Jesus of their own invention. They want the Jesus who walks in and says, "I'm going to solve all your problems. I'm going to deliver you from all your enemies, I'm going to make life wonderful for you,"

Jesus didn't meet the expectations of many of these people. Have you ever known someone who was disappointed when God didn't meet their expectations?

Answers may vary.

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What are some unrealistic expectations we sometimes have of God? What can we do to keep our expectations of God rooted in truth?

Answers may vary.

The people in Jerusalem, as they saw the commotion coming from the Mount of Olives, asked, "Who is this?" Well, who is Jesus in your life? Is He simply a prophet from Nazareth? Is He simply a good teacher? Is He Lord and Savior in your life?

Answers will vary.

What can we learn from Jesus' focus and determination?

The crowds had their idea of who Jesus was, but Jesus himself had a different focus in mind. Jesus' focus was the cross. The victory over the enemy, over sin, bringing salvation to all of humanity

through his sacrifice on the cross. Although this crowd welcomes Jesus with open arms, Jesus knows the true desire of their hearts is for an earthly king.

The Jewish leaders knew their bibles and the law, yet they missed Jesus who is the Christ. In what ways we actually be more like the Jewish leaders than like those whose eyes were opened by Jesus?

Answers will vary.

How can we use this passage to equip us as followers of Jesus?

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- Are you looking for Jesus to give you all of the things in this world or the next?
- Are you missing the point of Jesus' coronation just like the people of his day?
- What steps are you willing to take to follow king Jesus even if he is not what you expected?

