

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 4/2/2023

Matthew 21, Psalm 118 – Palm Sunday, The New Covenant

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Opening discussion: What is peace? What does peace look like in your life?

Highlights

- We have always and still stink at keeping our end of the covenant with God.
 - So Jesus is the once for all gift from God who came to fulfill all the covenants.
- Throughout His ministry, Jesus has often said, “don’t tell anyone.” In Matthew 21, Jesus is done being quiet. It’s time. He’s going to tell everyone who He is.
- **Mt. 21:1-2** “...say the Lord needs them...” Jesus is not holding back.
- **Mt. 21:3-5** From Zechariah 9:9-11b, 500 years before
 - Riding on a donkey
 - Because of the blood of my covenant
 - Nations – all people. Goyim – non-Israelites; gentiles
- **Mt. 21:6-8** Jesus said do this and they did it.
 - Why cloaks and branches – when a king came to town, people would lay down their cloaks and fill up the ruts and holes with branches to make the way smooth for the king. Jesus is coming into Jerusalem as the King.
 - We call this the Triumphal Entry
- **Mt. 21:9** Son of David – they are admitting the Davidic Covenant is being fulfilled through Jesus.
 - **Hosanna** – Yassa na. Saves Now.
 - They are saying, LORD, do your thing! Save us from this world and the Roman Empire as the mighty warrior (king) that you are.
- **Ps 118:21-22** The cornerstone carries the most weight
 - David wrote this 1000 years before Jesus. He’s saying, there is someone coming who everyone will reject but he’s the most important.
- **Ps 118: 25-26** – In Matthew they were shouting at Jesus this Psalm.
 - **What does it mean to you that Jesus is king?**
 - **What does Save Us Now mean to you?**
 - The Name of the Lord – the character of Jesus
 - Calling myself a Christian is taking on the name of Jesus – this is HUGE; and a huge responsibility. **Have you ever thought of it that way? Knowing this, does it change the way you use the term Christian?**
- **Exodus 12:1-6** Nisan 10 is the 10th day of the first month of the Jewish calendar.
 - 4 days before Passover, select the lamb to be sacrificed to remember the Passover, take it home and take care of it for 4 days.

- Nisan 14 – slaughter the lamb
- Nisan 15 – Passover
- Palm Sunday is when we celebrate Nisan 10 – the day God chose the Passover Lamb in Jesus to redeem all nations. Don't miss this!
- **Mt. 21:12-13** When everyone is taking their Passover lamb to their houses, Jesus goes to HIS house, the Temple. He calls it that. He's making it clear.
- **Mt. 21:33-46** Parable of the Tenants
 - **V 42** Jesus quotes Ps. 118. He's saying, I'm not just a stone that you can cast aside, I'm the cornerstone that the whole thing (law and prophets) rests on.
 - What your eyes didn't see as good as actually the most good.

Why does this matter?

1. **Jesus is King.** Let Him reign in your life. He's better at running your life than you are.
 2. **Jesus is the proclaimer of peace.** Ask for His peace.
 3. **Jesus is the lamb that was slain to fulfill the covenant.** Put your trust in Him.
- a. **Everything God wants for you is found in Christ alone.** He is your cornerstone.

Prayer