

Discussion Guide: Joe Boerman

Message: *The Three Rs: Religion, Righteousness, Relationship*

Series: *Sermon On the Mount*

March 24, 2024

PRIMARY PASSAGE (ESV)

John 12:12-19: The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and had been done to Him. The crowd that had been with Him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him."

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Jesus is more appealing than religion
- Scripture is more reliable than opinions about Jesus
- Following Jesus is more important than observation

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time in your life when you had religion, but not a true relationship with Jesus. What changed that for you?
2. Joe talked about some of the differences between the practice of religion and the person of Jesus. Share as many of those as you can. Here's the first one...Religion emphasizes the outward; Jesus emphasizes the inward.
3. Read aloud 2 Corinthians 5:21 in several translations. What nuances of truth do you detect in each of the different translations?
4. What might be a next step for you in your own relationship with Jesus? Share with the group.

PRAYER

Thank you, Jesus, for taking my place and taking my sin on Yourself so that I could be forgiven and have a right standing before God and a right relationship with You. Amen