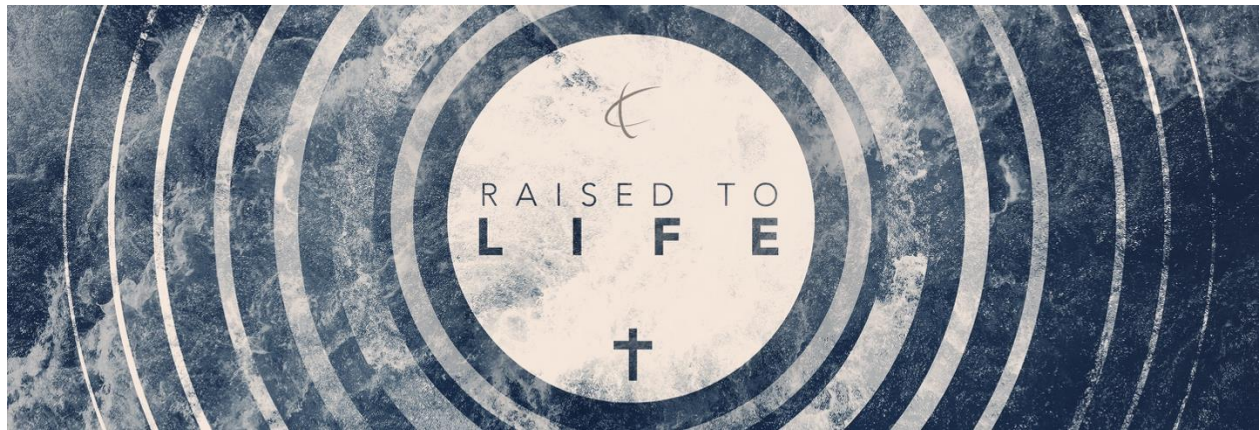


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



These discussion questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday message. You can use them for your personal Bible study, family study, and/or small group study.

Overview

Sermon: *The Comeback King*

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" – John 12:13

Jesus enters into Jerusalem and the beginning of the Passover festival with much fanfare. Many have witnessed him raising dead Lazarus to life and are now whipped into a triumphant frenzy. The scene was typical for when a city would welcome a returning king from the victory of battle.

Jerusalem was shouting for him to save! They laid out Palm branches as a symbol of their national pride.

It was a jubilant celebration but one under false pretenses. "Jesus resurrect the kingdom and overthrow our captors. Bring us peace through force."

They had a misguided view of what would bring them salvation because of what they believed about the means of their salvation. In their eyes, Jesus was on top and poised to lead an incredible political and violent uprising against Rome.

Jesus enters passion week on top! He is the returning triumphant king but by Friday he's killed. A quick turn of events.

He was favored but ends up "failing." But through his "failure" we celebrate Jesus because he resurrects our hope out of failure, despair, and like Jesus we arise out of the ashes of defeat.

Discussion

1. What makes a good comeback story? Share a comeback story with the group. It can be a sports story or a story of personal adversity.
2. Read John 12. Describe the events and environment leading up to Jesus washing the disciples' feet in chapter 13. What are some phrases and themes that you are drawn to? Why?
3. Why is the crowd so excited to welcome Jesus? Why was their praise of him misguided? Do you have any misguided views about Jesus? What are some ways in which people today celebrate Jesus under false pretenses?
4. What did it mean for the Pharisees to say, "Look how the whole world has gone after him."? How was this prophetic? How does John show it being fulfilled (v. 20)?

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5. When Jesus is lifted up, he will “draw all people to himself (v. 32)” How can you connect with the suffering of Jesus and be drawn near to him? How can you participate in the drawing of all people to Jesus? Pray for people who need to put their faith in Jesus and be baptized.

Application

6. The Comeback King has comeback for you. Jesus says that he has come into the world as light and if you believe in him you will not stay in darkness (v. 46). Where does your faith need to comeback from darkness?
7. How would you tell your comeback story in Jesus?