

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"TRIUMPHAL ENTRY" | MATTHEW 21: 1-11 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

If you could ride in any kind of vehicle to arrive at a party, what would it be?

"The Preparation" Matthew 21: 1-11

Jesus sent 2 disciples to get a donkey from someone for him to ride as he enters Jerusalem, showing and preparing a message about being King. **Which is more difficult, being sent somewhere or being asked to give something? Why?**

"The Prophecy" Matthew 21: 5

Matthew quotes Zechariah showing that Jesus is fulfilling a prophecy by riding a donkey into Jerusalem. He is the Messiah coming to His people gently on a donkey, not aggressively on a war horse. **What does Jesus' gentle approach show about His rule? What are different reactions people have to gentleness?**

"The Parade and the Protest" Luke 19: 37-40

Crowds lined the streets, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna". Some Pharisees protested, asking Jesus to rebuke his disciples. **Why do some people protest Jesus' rule? Why do some people praise Jesus' rule? What does it say about someone if they don't care about Jesus' rule?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey with an adoring crowd, fulfilling prophecy to show He is the promised King. People obeyed his orders and laid down their cloaks to show honor while others protested. **How have you been following Jesus' orders lately? Have you been willing to sacrifice things to show Him honor? What are ways this week you can show your allegiance to Jesus? Pray that God would give you the opportunity to serve Jesus the King.**

Triumphal Entry

I. Announce:

- A. **Slide1 EVPC Gala:** Please join us as our church hosts the *Elsinore Valley Pregnancy Resource Center, A Heritage and A Reward, Gala/Fundraiser*. Come and hear what the Lord has done this last year through their ministry. Enjoy a delicious dinner, a guest speaker, and hear how you can help partner with them to build a **medical clinic** which will provide free ultrasounds and support the on-going work of preserving the lives of the unborn, & support families.
- B. **Slide2 Youth Center Silent Auction:** Sun, April 7 we will have a *silent auction fundraiser* our **new Youth Center**. The items will all be in LC1, please come take a look and see what you could bid on between services and help support our Youth Center project. *The winner will be contacted after service that day.
- C. **Slide3 Crosswalk:** March 29th, **Good Friday** - We will be gathering in the parking lot of **Reliance Church** near Old Town Temecula and walk .9 miles to **Sam Hicks Park**. Gather 11:00 AM, Walking 11:15 AM. *Walk to Sam Hick's Park in Old Town Temecula and enjoy worship & a message*. There'll be a shuttle bus back.
- D. **Slide4 Prayer:**

II. Intro: Holy Week

- A. This week (& next) we pause from **Corinthians**. Today begins, our look at & remembrance of, **Holy Week**. [the week of **Passion**, Lt. *suffering*]
1. The Holy Spirit gives a lot of real estate in the Gospels to just this **1 week**, *Jesus' last week before He died*. - As I wrote in my last Friday Newsletter:
 2. *Participating in Holy Week doesn't automatically make you "holy", and it is not something we are commanded in Scripture to take part in. Instead, it is a week set apart as an opportunity to remember. It's an opportunity to pause, slow down, and dwell on the events that took place leading up to the triumphant celebration of Easter Sunday. It is an opportunity to remember God's faithfulness and goodness.* [*we hope you can join us some of the nights]

3. Holy Mon (Jason H.), Busy Tues (AP), Silent Wed (Jason B.), Maundy Thurs (AL), Good Fri (me), Holy Sat (AL). Easter: 2 Graves, 2 Gardens.

B. Slide5 Jesus was at the *End* of His journey. A journey that started 9 months ago. A busy itinerary in this final journey where He ministered in at least 35 villages/cities. He timed the journey to end in Jerusalem, right at Passover (Good Fri).

1. The Passover now only a few days away. Throngs around Him. Everyone spreading the news about Him. Back now in Bethany where he rose Lazarus from the dead. The religious leaders counseling on how to kill Him. The Roman Soldiers Special Forces on Heightened alert, Threat Level Orange for potential Terrorist attacks. Would Jesus make a move? As the pressure mounts, Jesus took definite, calculated, & premeditated action.

C. The story of His Triumphal Entry is told in: Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12. (25 ch's given to this last week) Or: 1/4 of Luke. 1/4 of Mt. 1/3 of Mark. 1/2 of John.

1. Picking up on AP's theme from Wed night, "The Crime of Being King."

D. In Oct.2007, my friend Greg & I were on a plane leaving London for Kosovo. Greg had the window shade open, I was staring out, & a Mercedes pulled right up to the plane. I thought this has to be some dignitary to get that treatment. He came on with 2 other guys & they sat in the not so prestigious front row/no 1st class. People started pointing & whispering something about him. I asked a gal who is it? she said the president (Fatmir Sejdiu / Fat-Meer Sai-ju). 4 months before Kosovo's Independence, here was the President. He did get to drive right up to the plane & board last minute ... but I felt bad ... I felt he deserved so much more as Pres.

1. This morning we look at Jesus' not so triumphal entry. He deserved so much more!

III. Slide6 1 THE PREPARATION (MT.21:1-11) READ

A. Slide7a DID THIS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY JUST HAPPEN TO HIM? You might have thought it did. Nope! [Matthew actually takes the 1st 6 verses to set this all up]

1. He **orchestrates** his entry to show that **He is the King**.

B. Slide7b CAREFULLY ORDERING EVERYTHING

1. **His Timing:** The day & hour were selected from eternity w/countdown precision. He chose the **1st day** of the week for his *Triumphal entry* which would precipitate his **terrible death** on that **Friday**, His **rest** in the grave on **Sabbath**, & his *triumphant resurrection* on the following **1st day** of The Church.
2. **His Mode of transportation:** A previously *unridden* donkey.
 - a) He reaches **Bethphage** & sends his disciples to obtain his *donkey limo* he'd ride in on. [isn't this *Grand Theft Burro?*]
3. **His Going Public:** He was *now* purposely *going public*. He was promoting a public demonstration. Never before. He had repeatedly withdrawn from the crowds. **But now** He invited it. He **courted danger and did it with calculated purpose**.

C. Slide7c SETTING UP THE SCENE

1. **Matthew starts with** an important phrase **Son of David** in Mt.1:1. *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*
 - a) Oh, & *the Son of David* by the way means, *the predicted Messiah*.
2. When Jesus was healing in **Capernaum**, 2 blind men used this title (Mt.9:27-31) **and** Jesus responded *after healing them*, **see that no one knows about it**.
3. **Then** right before this event in **Mt.20**, Jesus was just called by *another 2 blind men*, **Son of David**. **But this time** he received this title. As if to say, *Oh ultimate king, final King of the world*, and Jesus says, **Yes it's Me!**
 - a) At this point there would've been an incredible *gasp*, *even from the disciples*.

IV. Slide8a 2 THE PROPHECY (MT.21:5)

- A. Jesus was coming from the north, past **Jericho**, through **Bethany**, through **Bethphage**
1. **Bethphage:** house of the unripe figs. **Bethany:** house of misery/poor.

B. (5) quoting Zech.9:9 *Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, **your king** is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a **donkey**, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'*

C. **THE KING**

D. Note also is that *the king is coming to you*, present tense, lit. *is moving toward you*. *Not He will come, He's here!* (*He's not away*) *even today He's moving toward you*.

E. Also, not just any crowd would have welcomed Him as **the King**.

1. **Jerusalem** wouldn't have, & didn't. This happened on the way there.
2. **But** the crowds in *Bethpage and Bethany*/_{Lk.}, they would have, & did. They witnessed Lazarus being raised from the dead.
3. This is the first time Jesus has shown his face since the big miracle of raising Lazarus. Maybe they saw Jesus as a 2nd, Judas Maccabeus.

F. **THE DONKEY** [speaks to royalty or humility? yes]

G. As He sent for a **donkey**, He was also sending for this crowd.

1. Jesus either knew it as there, **or** showing His sovereignty.

H. No one is allowed to ride on the Kings horse **or** on the Kings donkey. That's why he wants one, *never test-driven*.

I. A donkey was used for 2 things: a mode of transportation, **and** to haul things.

1. **Remember, these people are poor**. So it's like someone walking up to you and saying give me the keys to your **Ford F-150**.

J. *Your king comes unto you, humble/gentle, riding on a donkey*, riding vulnerable, not on a Steed. *Riding as a servant*. Any king that rides on a donkey into battle is going to be *slaughtered*. *Oh, that's the purpose, His death!*

1. **Slide8b** The gospel: "*Sin is servants putting themselves in the place of the king. Therefore Salvation was the king, putting himself in the place of the servant.*" Timothy Keller

K. **Oh He will come 1 day on His War Horse**. *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.* Rev.19:11

1. **But** for now **He** is *the gentle king, the dying king, the servant king*.

- L. To the donkeys owner - How God loves to employ people in the purposes of His kingdom. To some like the disciples, He says, **go**. To some like the owner of the donkey, He says **give**.
- M. **We can all** find encouragement from the fact that Jesus enlisted a **donkey** in His service :)
- N. It **wasn't** saying that he was lowly/humble **BY** riding in on a donkey. The Pharisees had an issue with it because he was riding on a donkey.
1. To approach Jerusalem this way, was approaching **high treason** against *the Roman Empire*.
 2. **Imagine** flying in to **March Air-Force Base**, unannounced, with a plane painted like air-force one. Or, rolling up to **1600 Pennsylvania Avenue** in a **Limo** w/*the presidential seal* on the doors. How would you be received?
"Who is This?"

V. Slide9a 3 THE PARADE

- A. These were *Hebrews on Holiday!* A 1 man parade/procession.
- B. **THE PALMS** (Jn.12:12) was a symbol of **triumph & victory** in pre-Christian times:
1. **The Romans** rewarded champions of the games **and** celebrated military successes with palm branches.
 2. **In Judaism** the palm represents **peace** and **plenty**, **and** is one of the 4 Species for the Feast of Booths.
 3. **Early Christians** used the palm branch to symbolize the **victory** of the **faithful** over enemies of the soul; **as here in** *the Palm Sunday festival*.
- C. **When the King** returns, **creation** is going to go crazy. Here's what **the trees** are doing (clapping), & the mountains (singing).
1. Is.55:12 *For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; **the mountains and the hills** before you shall break forth into singing, and **all the trees of the field** shall clap their hands.*

2. What are **WE** going to be doing? If we have **5 senses** now, what if we have 100 senses later on? How we will *rejoice*?

D. Slide9b **THE CLOAKS**

E. This happened in the OT when **Jehu** takes over as king, *from wicked Ahab*. 2 Kings 9:13 *Then in haste every man of them took his garment and put it under him on the bare steps, & they blew the trumpet and proclaimed, Jehu is king.*

F. Slide9c **THE HOSANNAS**

G. All 4 gospels quote from Ps.118:25,26 here.

VI. Slide10 **4 THE PROTEST** (Lk.19:39,40)

A. *And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, Teacher, rebuke your disciples. He answered, I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.*

1. Pharisees try to throw *cold water* on the situation. **But** you can't withhold this **Praise**. What were the **Stones** gonna sing? *I can't get no sa-tis-fac-tion, with-out-Jesus. Ha!*

B. Remember, Jesus *provoked* this demonstration. He *chose* this mode of transportation.

C. His message to *everyone* is that they can crown Him, or kill Him, but *there is no middle way*. Same choice holds true for *each and every one of us today*.

1. The gospels are a work of *madness, or blinding revelation*.

2. The Jewish chief priest Sceva who had 7 sons learned the hard way in Acts 19, when they realized Jesus' power *wasn't mechanical power, abstract power, or magical power... but pure Kingly power!*

D. Jesus basically says, don't just like Me or just admire Me. Love Me or hate Me. But decide. *Choose this day whom you will serve*. [how about you this morning as we start Holy Week. Will you cry out to Him *Hosanna/Save Now!*]

E. Keywords: Palm Sunday, Triumphal Entry. King, Donkey, Palm.