

October 22nd, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 37))

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Our culture has a fasciation with kingdoms, specifically when it relates to kings and queens. For example, in America – 23 million people watched the marriage ceremony of Prince William and Kate Middleton. 29 million Americans tuned in to watch Prince Harry and Megan Markle's wedding ceremony. Why do you think the idea of royalty is so appealing to people?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 11:1-11. Jesus is coming into Jerusalem for the final time, riding on a donkey. The people are praising him, acknowledging Him has the next true King, even laying their cloaks down on the road. Why does Jesus decide to fulfill Zechariah 9:9, and ride into town on a donkey? Other than fulfilling prophecy, why would Jesus want to give them imagery? How does Jesus riding a donkey relate back to what He ultimately came to do?

Read Mark 10:45

Reflect of this phrase "Jesus' mission is not to usher in judgement but to undergo judgement."

Question 2: Read Mark 11:3-6. Jesus gives the orders to go find the colt to be brought to Him. If anyone asked why they needed it, their response was supposed to be "The Lord has need of it (v.3)" Don't you think even the disciples were wondering, "Why does Jesus need a donkey?" The disciples did not know why either, but they showed devotion to their king and followed His orders. Pastor Jeff said, "to make Jesus your personal king, it means full devotion – even when what He asks doesn't make sense to you."

A lot of times we say, "God, I'll do what you want if you JUST tell me why!!" Jesus is saying, if you only obey me because you know why, that is not devotion – that's agreement. You haven't given up your authority yet. How have you seen that in your own life? How have you seen your heart only wanting to submit to Jesus' authority if you understand why He wants you to obey Him?

Question 3: Read Mark 11:7-11. The people seeing Jesus coming into Jerusalem were praising Him as the coming King! They understood a lot of Old Testament prophecy of the coming Davidic king. However, they would soon realize that He was not setting up the earthly kingdom that they were desiring, and their worship started to dwindle. Jesus wasn't giving them what their hope was in, and their worship reflected that by the end of the passage. Pastor Jeff said, "whether Jesus rules your heart and life can be determined by your

worship of Him.” That means worshipping Him when He gives you what you expect and when He doesn’t give you what you expect!

Read Daniel 3:16-18.

How does Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego’s worship to God resemble the worship that Jesus asks of us? Is it circumstantial?

Question 4: Read Mark 11:11. As Jesus enters Jerusalem and goes into the temple, nobody is there to welcome or worship Him, other than the 12 disciples. The allure and appeal from the crowd to follow him was gone. Pastor Jeff challenged us with the question – “Who’s actually in charge of your life?” Reflect on these questions along with the Scripture passages.

- Are you seeking Jesus? Jeremiah 29:13, Psalm 14:2, 34:10
- Are you trusting Him? Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 28:7, Psalm 112:7
- Are you submitting to Him? John 6:63, 7:16, 14:24.
- Are you worshipping Him? Hebrews 12:28-29, John 4:23-24

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?