

**Week of April 5, 2020**

**Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV)**

<sup>NRS</sup> **Matthew 21:1** When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,

<sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.

<sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately. "

<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;

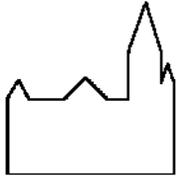
<sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

<sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

<sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

<sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."



### Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

### Gathering questions:

- A. Are you a procrastinator? What kinds of things are you more likely to put off?
- B. When you experience bad customer service, do you tend to complain or suffer silently? What kind of experience puts you "over the top" in terms of speaking up?

### Bible Study Questions:

1. The author of Matthew's gospel is very careful to specifically honor the prophecy about a donkey/colt. How important is it to you that O.T. prophecies are precisely adhered to in N.T. stories?
2. Describe the triumphal entry as you imagine it.
3. Why do you believe the whole city was in "turmoil" after Jesus entered?
4. Jesus' ministry lasted about three years. Why do you think that was the right amount of time? Do you believe that God specifically planned the exact date when everything would happen, or did human freedom affect the timing of the events?
5. "Hosanna" is a transliterated Hebrew word that means "save (us)"; it is a word of praise shouted at one who "saves". What do you believe they thought Jesus was saving them from? When you refer to Jesus as your Savior, what does that mean to you?
6. The crowds of Palm Sunday would leave Jesus at the crucifixion. His ministry looked like a failure at that point. When do you think it was finally widely perceived as a success? What does that say about how we define success?
7. How is the present situation redefining your idea of what "success" means?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about areas of your lives that are facing turmoil or redefinition right now.