

Aspen Questions
Palm Sunday
Matthew 21: 1-11

Opening question: When in your life to find opportunities to share your faith, and if the opportunity presents itself do you?

Sermon response: Where do you find yourself in the crowd of Jesus triumphal entry?

1. Why were the crowds following Jesus into Jerusalem, what were they expecting from Jesus or for themselves?
2. As Holy Week progresses, the crowd will go from shouts of “Hosanna!” to “Crucify Him!” What happens to these followers when fear takes over?
3. “Hosanna” means “rescue us or save us”, what did Jesus followers want to be saved from and how did they expect Jesus to do it?
4. According to Matthew Jesus' presence sets Jerusalem in turmoil. When has Jesus presence set your life in turmoil? How does that impact our faith?
5. What was it about Jesus that compelled the people to spread their cloaks and wave their branches in the air? What is it about him that still inspires people to give their lives to him? What inspires your faith in Jesus?
6. If the choice of the colt was subversive and meant to run counter to the 'powers of this world' at the time, what 'powers' would Jesus be working against today? What does Jesus' peaceable entrance contrast with today? What would his message be?
7. When have you felt tension while sticking up for something you believe in? Do you quietly keep your belief to yourself or are you the rabble rouser challenging others with words or actions?
8. What challenges you about the story of Palm Sunday? Or moving into Holy Week? Where will you find Holy discomfort this week and how will you move through that and into the sure and certain hope of the promise of the resurrection?