

Seeking: Honest questions for Deeper Faith

Week 6 (Palm Sunday) – Where are you headed?

Hello to everyone on this Palm Sunday.

This is also our conclusion to our Lenten message series we have been calling:

“Seeking: Honest questions for deeper faith.”

Over the course of this message series, our seeking has been guided by a different question each week.

I pray that these questions have created a safe space for you to be raw and honest with your doubts, your fears, your confusion.

At the same time, I pray that you have kept yourself open and curious so that you were able to soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives.

I’ve been saying over the course of this message series that faith has two connotations: the deposit of faith that is handed down by the Catholic Church and the faith that we each personally embrace.

The deposit of faith is unchanging
but how we personally live the faith is a journey.

Part of this journey is about seeking God in the world,
seeking the good, seeking a deeper truth.

Ultimately, I pray that this journey of seeking leads each
and every one of you to a new beginning, a restoration,
a wider grace.

All of our past messages can be accessed on the home
page of our website. Just click on “Message Series.”

So, let’s jump right into our final message
of our Seeking series.

Often on Palm Sunday,
we can get lost in the story of the Passion that we just
heard...which of course is understandable.

But today I want to first focus on the Gospel passage
that we heard around the Baptismal font.

At the beginning of the passage, we see that Jesus knows
exactly how He will enter the city of Jerusalem.

He gives His disciples clear directions for what they will encounter as they find the animal He will ride on and the home where they will prepare the Passover.

Then, we hear the crowd spreads their cloaks on the road and cuts palm branches to place on the road as well to prepare for Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

They shout as He enters the city,

"Hosana to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."

The crowds in the streets at this point are on Team Jesus.

However, despite the excitement of the moment, Jesus knows what He is walking into...the Passion that will ultimately lead to His death on the Cross.

These two stories collide, and we are faced with two parades: Jesus' unconventional entrance into the city of Jerusalem as the servant king and the horrific spectacle of Jesus walking through the streets carrying His Cross to Calvary.

Our question guiding our seeking today is
“Where are **you** headed?” Stated another way,
in what parade do we find ourselves with our seeking?

As followers of Jesus, often what we want
is the easy way.

It can be easy to identify with the crowd waving the
palm. After all, we are called to praise and rejoice in our
King.

But that is **not all** that we are called to.

We as disciples are called to pick up our Cross and follow
Him.

Our crosses are difficult to face and heavy to hold.
Some of those crosses may be:

- Our own illness or a loved one's.
- Death and the grief that follows.
- Raising children in this challenging and increasingly secular society.
- Family disagreements and even separation.
- The loss of the truth that we have been created by a loving Father who created us good...with an inherent human dignity.

All of this can catch us off guard...leading us to want to stay on the easy path, choose the other parade...the one of waving palms and shouts of praise.

Turning away from our crosses is the natural reaction.

Unfortunately, this can even lead us to turn away from Jesus.

After all, the Way of the Cross isn't easy, but Jesus has shown us the Way and He will give us the grace to handle it.

He's both the rightful King and the humble servant...beloved and betrayed but victorious... calling to each one of us to follow Him.

Our seeking throughout this message series has been designed to help us prepare spiritually for our entrance into Holy Week as we both praise our King and carry our cross. This Holy Week, may we remember:

- That what we attend to can either be life giving or death dealing.
- That Jesus can transform us when we listen to Him.

- That we are spiritually thirsty for Jesus and He fills a longing in our hearts.
- That our assumptions can blind us but opening ourselves to Jesus will heal our sight and help us to see clearly.
- And that following Jesus will bring us eternal life.

Hopefully, throughout this message, we have given you an opportunity to explore what you believe.

For all disciples in every age,
Jesus is the one whom we must trust to grasp us,
raise us up from our fears and bring us to new life.

Jesus has the ability to heal us from our brokenness,
our blindness, our sinfulness.

Do we really believe this?

Will we pick up our Cross and follow Him? Where are you headed?