

March 24, 2024

John 12:12-26 – King Jesus

Discussion Questions

1. The “Triumphal Entry” on Palm Sunday is found in all four of the gospel accounts. Review our passage then turn to Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44. What similarities and differences did you notice? How does reading all four accounts add to your understanding? Is the subtitle misleading? What was Jesus’ true reason for coming into Jerusalem? What were the onlookers expecting from Jesus? How can false expectations be dangerous in our own lives?
2. C.S. Lewis said that true humility is “not thinking less of ourselves, but thinking of ourselves less.” Humility can set us free because when we think about ourselves less we are free to think about Christ more. In 1 Peter 5:5, Peter reminds us, “. . . clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.” How are you catering to self? In what areas of your life can you improve putting on more of Christ?
3. In verse 14, John writes, “just as it is written”. The people wanted to crown Jesus king but only in a political/nationalistic way. Our behavior or reactions do not make Him king, yet He allows us to reflect Him in our choices to daily lay down our lives in subjection to His authority. What does Zechariah 9:9 say about our Lord? What did David sing in Psalm 103:19? What does John recount later in Revelation 7:9-10 and 19:15-16?
4. Why is it important to wait on God’s timing? Several times throughout the gospel of John, Jesus says His hour has not yet come (see 2:4, 7:6, 8, 30 and 8:20). What statement does He make to Andrew and Phillip here in 12:23? In what ways are you vying for your own agenda? How can we improve in picking up our cross and losing, hating and denying ourselves?
5. Death to self is a necessary condition for life in Christ. His plan is for an eternal Kingdom, and we must be willing to sacrifice temporal comforts for Him. Read verse 26. What are practical ways we can stir up one another to love and good works? Ask Him for grace and humility to serve Him with your whole heart and meditate on the glorious truth that the Father deigns to honor us as we submit to His will.
6. *On a connected note . . . 1 Timothy 6:13-16:*
“I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of Lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.”