



[Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides! If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions below the discussion questions.]

Week 6 – “Freedom Fighter - Simon the Zealot” - Palm Sunday Monologue

April 10, 2022

The Monologue with Pastor Bryan is a special tradition at Grace Chapel and we enter into Palm Sunday continuing our “Changemaker” series as we head to Easter. This year’s character is “Simon the Zealot,” a passionate and brave disciple that had committed his life to overthrowing the Romans and restoring Israel back to its glory. However, upon meeting Jesus, everything changed.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q – In the opening of the monologue, Simon the Zealot lays out the context of what it was like living in occupied Israel under Roman rule and what the Zealots were truly about. What did you learn or find intriguing in this opening of the monologue?

Q – As we encounter Simon and consider the diversity of personality and background and hopes of the other disciples, what window of perspective do you see in how Jesus called his disciples to follow him? After a few thoughts, let’s consider how this model of both diversity and unity applies to us today?

Q - One of the Simon’s key reasons to follow Jesus is for the hope that this great rabbi would lead a revolution to overthrow Rome. Here are some of his words he shared in the monologue:

“I had dreamed we would beat the Romans at their own game. But – yesterday— when I saw Jesus— my teacher and my friend—nailed to the cross, something inside me gave up. *You win!* I said—to the Romans? To the Jews? To Jesus himself? I didn’t want to play the game anymore. The game where two groups of people kill each other and call it power. Because it was suddenly clear to me that that game has no winners. That game has no end.

Jesus was dying, but he wasn’t done teaching. And when he said “*it is finished*” – I believe he meant *that* game. Jesus didn’t play the power game in the way I had expected. Its rules... somehow didn’t apply to him. Instead, he stepped outside of it. He didn’t force his enemies into submission and then rule over them just as they had ruled over us. Because he always knew who was *really* in charge—and it wasn’t someone in Rome....

Jesus saw a day when our enemies weren’t just defeated—he saw a day when they weren’t even our enemies anymore. And he called it the kingdom of God.



That kingdom he's been talking about all these years—I think I'm finally beginning to understand what he meant. But I don't know how we're supposed to find it without him. I don't know if you can. But I saw enough these past three years to convince me that it's a kingdom worth seeking. Worth fighting for. Worth losing for. Worth... dying for. And Jesus did."

- What paradigm shift does Simon go through and describe how he gets there?
- Every disciple of Jesus seems to undergo through a paradigm shift – what have you seen or experienced yourself in seeing life, mission, and the way of Jesus in a new way?

Q – Each week we have identified a change that Jesus modeled and the change we can live out. Today we want to consider the big idea that Simon the Zealot stated - "Jesus showed me a new way – how *you really* change the world. It's not violence that brings change. ...It's love." How does that truth change the world, change the church, and change you?

HOW TO USE THESE STUDY GUIDES

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
 - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
 - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team.

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