



Jesus through the eyes of His followers

WEEK 7 - THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OVERVIEW

A week before his crucifixion, Jesus enters Jerusalem to great fanfare, riding on a donkey just as the prophet Zechariah had predicted (Zechariah 9:9). Was it possible that the coming of this Messiah was exactly what everyone had been waiting for? Was Jesus going to lead Israel to military victory over the Roman occupiers? These questions must have been ringing in the disciples' ears as they wrestled with Jesus' earlier predictions of his own imminent death at the hands of Rome. Which was it going to be? Victory or death? This moment of cognitive dissonance is a wonderful invitation for us to consider what kind of Messiah we are following. Is the Jesus we follow victorious by human standards, trampling down everyone we disagree with? Or is he the one whose victory lies in his self-sacrifice and surrender, and the grace he offers even to the despised?

*Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,
"Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!
Praise God in highest heaven!"*

Matthew 21:9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We have been talking about witnesses to Jesus' life. Who are the witnesses to your life, and what do you think they would tell future generations about you?
2. Read Matthew 21:1-11, Zechariah 9:9, 2 Kings 9:13, John 12:16.
 - a. Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey? What two things did this symbolize?
 - b. Why did people spread cloaks and branches on the road in front of Jesus?
 - c. Who were the "crowds" who spread the cloaks and branches, and who were the people asking, "who is this?" in verse 11? Why does this matter?
3. Read Luke 19:36-40. What do you think this day would have been like for Jesus' disciples?
4. Amy said that there are three questions we need to ask ourselves, as witness to these events:
 - a. Do you believe Jesus is who he said he is?
 - b. Are you ready to share that good news with a broken world?
 - c. How are you entering your world?
5. Questions to help us engage our hearts and minds each week of this series:
 - a. **How do I relate to the disciples?** What part of their story do you relate to? Do you see any part of yourself in them? Can you relate to the way they react to certain things? Do you identify with them in any way?
 - b. **How did I encounter Jesus?**
 - c. **What is God's invitation to me today?**

RESOURCES

Watch *The Chosen*, free online, [here](#).