

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Part 5 - The Palm Branch

We have been looking at the way of the cross in the lead up to Easter and today really begins the countdown to Good Friday, the day Jesus died. Today is Palm Sunday where the gospels sharpen their focus towards Jesus' death and resurrection.

Read Matthew 21:1-11

- + This scripture is such a fascinating moment in time where everybody does the right thing for the wrong reason.
- + The crowd thinks Jesus is here to free them from oppression of Rome - that He is a king and prophet.
- + Jesus is there to free them but from something greater.
- + Jesus gets on a donkey to walk towards Jerusalem fulfilling a prophetic word in the Old Testament.

Read Zechariah 9:9-13

- + This word mentions a King coming riding on a donkey to bring peace and set the oppressed free.
- + The crowd would have seen this scripture coming to life before their eyes.
- + They would have thought that Jesus was here to free them from Rome.
- + The word talks about being paid back double what they lost.
- + Jesus' disciples would have thought the same. Even putting cloaks on the donkey so Jesus wouldn't ride bare back on a donkey.

All signs point to a King coming to save His people from their oppression.

However, read the words of Luke 19:41-42.

- + Jesus weeps over the people and the city for they cannot see what He has actually come to do.
- + Jesus knows He is going to disappoint this crowd. In a few days they will be yelling crucify Him instead of hosanna.
- + Jesus has come to do something greater and yet He also knows it will disappoint the crowd.
- + No matter how much praise is directed His way, even though He does deserve it, He is going to disappoint them all.
- + As He walks down that road to Jerusalem, He can see both the cross that is coming and the people who won't understand.
- + But He also sees the resurrection as well as the greater victory the crowd can't see.

Disappointment

- + How many times do we take a step back from the Lord when we can't see what the bigger picture is of what He is doing in our life?
- + Disappointment can lead to doubt and taking back control of areas in our life because we don't see things from an eternal or heavenly perspective.
- + We can be the crowd praising the Lord until things don't work out the way we thought in the natural, and so we take a step back not seeing the bigger picture.

Are there areas in your life where this has happened? Write them down here.

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Following in the footsteps of Jesus

- + We are also to follow in Jesus' footsteps throughout life.

- + So often we actually need to walk the road through disappointment and our earthly perspective represented by the cross, into a resurrected life.

- + The way of the cross, the way of Jesus is to say yes to His perspective and His life, not our own.

- + Today you may need to walk down that road again, knowing there is disappointment but also knowing that what Jesus has for us is more than this moment

As we follow Jesus' footsteps this morning with Communion, what things in your life do you need to repent of where you have allowed disappointment to blind you from seeing what God is doing?

Where do you feel the burden of walking in the footsteps of Jesus? Allow Him to lift this burden as you look towards the grace in His death and the empowerment in His resurrection.