



USE THESE QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PROCESS THE MESSAGE DURING YOUR STUDY TIME OR WITH YOUR GROUP.

Message Recap: Throughout his ministry, Jesus had a complicated relationship with the crowds that followed him. He never sought a crowd, but they found him and followed him—all the way to Jerusalem, shouting hopeful praise that would turn to cries of crucifixion. Crowds are motivated by anticipation, fear, and ignorance. How do we take a stand, even in a crowd?

» Main Points

- The Palm Sunday Crowd - joyful, excited, curious, and intrigued
- The Good Friday Crowd - fearful and doubtful
- The Crowd at the Cross - irritated and disappointed

» Getting Started

- What's the biggest crowd you've ever been a part of? Describe why you were there and what it was like.

» Observation

- Read and reflect on [Matthew 19:1-2; 21:8-11, 26-46; 27:15-18, 20-26; Mark 11:18; 15:29-32](#)
- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?



- Who are you inviting to Easter? This week, grab an extra invitation at church or go to ehills.org/easter, find the "text this to a friend" button, and text the page directly to your friends. We can't wait to see all of you with your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family next week at our Easter services (Sat. 3/30 @ 4&6pm; Sun. 3/31 @ 7:30, 9&11am).



- It was not unusual for Jesus to do the unexpected. What might have been unexpected about his entry into Jerusalem?
- In light of the response Jesus received when he rode into Jerusalem, what were the crowd's expectations?
- What was Pilate's motive in offering the crowd a prisoner exchange? Share a time when you went along with the crowd, only to regret it later.
- Describe the attitudes of the crowd at the cross. How do you think you would have reacted in disappointment and fear?



- We all follow something or someone. Maybe you follow friends. Maybe you follow family members. Maybe you are a follower of Jesus. But what do we do when the things we follow don't line up with what we know to be true and what we know to be right? How do we handle those situations when we go against the grain and against the crowds? How do we stand up for what we know is right? This week, talk with your family about a time when you stood up for what was right, even when no one else did.

» Next Steps and Prayer

- Where are you with Jesus right now? Are you full of joy and anticipation? Curious and intrigued? Feeling fear and doubt? Or maybe irritated and disappointed? Spend time this week reflecting on this. And don't forget about the [Good Friday message](#) online.
- We close by thanking Jesus for exchanging his life to give us a better life when we follow him—even though it might not always feel better or easier.