

Sermon Title: The Way of the Cross: The King We Want...Or The King We Need

Sermon Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11



Sermon Discussion Guide (3/29)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture

Read Matthew 21:1-11 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

What does verse 5 say to us about how Jesus rides into Jerusalem? What does this verse reveal to us about the character and reign of Jesus?

In these verses, how does the crowd respond to seeing Jesus? What do they want from Him? Consider that the word Hosanna means "save us, we pray."

How does the city as a whole react to what is going on? What emotions or questions do you think are behind the city's reaction?

Read Matthew 27:15-23. What does the crowd now think about Jesus? What contrast is present among the crowd between the events of Jesus's trial in Matthew 27 and the events of Palm Sunday in Matthew 21?

Application

In your life, when have you experienced God not acting in the way you had expected or wanted? How did you respond?

We often do not just receive Jesus. We try to reshape Him. In what ways are you tempted to reshape Jesus to meet your own desires, opinions, or preferences?

Why do you think people often drift away from Jesus when He does not meet their expectations? How can you intentionally abide or remain in Jesus even when He does not act according to your plans or desires?

Pastor Kenny closed his sermon by asking us, "What area of your life is Jesus not fully King over?" How would you answer this question? What step can you take to more fully surrender to Jesus in this area of your life?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we praise You as our King, not the King we would always want, but the King we truly need. You came in humility, not to be served but to serve and give Your life for us. Forgive us for the ways we try to reshape You to fit our expectations. Teach us to trust You, even when Your ways are different than ours. Give us hearts that are fully surrendered to Your rule and reign. Help us to follow You on Your terms and not our own. May our hearts and lives declare that You alone are our King. Amen.