

TAKEAWAY

Palm Sunday

Sunday 28th March 2021

READ

Mark 11:1-11

DISCUSS

1. The crowd cried out Hosanna, meaning “save us” rather than Hallelujah meaning “praise God.” Why?
2. Was this a parody of Roman strength or a Messianic victory parade?
3. When would you choose a donkey, rather than a limousine?
4. The crowd are beginning to realise that Jesus might be the promised Messiah. How did they arrive at that conclusion? How did you?

READ

John 2:13-25

DISCUSS

5. What is so significant about this story that John places it at the beginning of his Gospel?
6. Verse 17 says, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” What does that mean?
7. What happened to the “meek and mild” Jesus?
8. If God is everywhere, what was the purpose of a Temple, the dwelling place of God?

9. During lockdown we have had to remove ourselves from church buildings, stained glass, crosses, lecterns, physical gatherings at Sunday church services, live worship and so on. Is that our equivalent of a Temple? If so, why do we miss them?

10. Paul describes each believer’s body as a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). How do you think that applies to you?

11. Has anyone said to you, “God wants you to know that your body is a temple, and He is not pleased with the way you have been treating it”? How did that make you feel?

12. Phil said, “I am a suitable temple because I have been bought with a price.” Do you agree? Can you say that about yourself?

PRAY

Spend time reflecting on the events of Holy Week. Remember that each day between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, a different person from Maybridge will take us through the last week of Jesus’s life, reading and explaining a Bible passage and leading us in prayer.

Loving Heavenly Father, thank you that my body is a temple and is worthy for you to call it your home. Not because of anything I have done, but the moment your son Jesus suffered, died, and gave His life for me.

Help me to remember that Jesus took the punishment that I should be receiving; to remember that while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us; to remember that I cannot save myself, but have been saved by your son, Jesus.

Thank you for Jesus, my King and Saviour.

May I now use my body to glorify You.

Amen.

NOTES FOR LEADERS

The aim of this study is to see that Jesus is showing two “demonstrations” of God’s love for us. Firstly, Jesus is the humble messiah, in contrast to the might of Rome. Secondly, Jesus is alive and well and lives in us by the Power of the Holy Spirit.

As you discuss this passage there may be people in your group who remember it as a kid with palm-waving frenzy. However, if that’s the image in their minds, it may be difficult to get to the seriousness of Jesus’ actions.

Be careful how you approach the part about “my body is a temple”. This may be the time to restore people’s image about their body. That can be really difficult if they have an eating disorder, an illness, a disability or just getting older. Remind them that God has chosen their body for His Holy Spirit to reside.

Be prepared to support those who need it.

At the same time appreciate those who look after their body through exercise, eating well etc. However, try not to lose sight that we are not really looking here at our physical bodies. You might get on to discuss that this is much wider than exercise and food. It is about our bodies glorifying God and that should influence what we watch, our time, our worship, our thoughts, our reading, etc.

Spend time reflecting on the events of Holy Week:

Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem signals the start of the last week of His earthly ministry. In a few days time He would be betrayed, scourged, mocked, and nailed to the cross to die -- only to rise again on the third day after His death.

This week is when we remember that:

- Jesus took the punishment that we should be receiving.
- While we were still sinners, Jesus died for us
- We can’t save ourselves, but Jesus saved us.

Jesus, our King and Saviour came to save us through His sacrificial death and resurrection.

But Jesus is not dead, he is alive. He lives with us.