



Week of Oct 15 - a

Scripture: Mt 21:1-11

Main Idea: It was prophesied that the Messiah (future savior King) would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. As this happens, the followers of Jesus are excited. “Hosanna” is from the Hebrew meaning “please help or save.” The crowd wanted a savior King to overthrow the Romans. Little did they know, this savior King was working to provide them with something far greater.

Questions

Preschool: Even though the people didn’t fully understand how Jesus was going to be their savior, were they excited to have him?

Grade school: Did you know that in the ancient Middle Eastern world, leaders rode horses if they rode to war, but donkeys if they came in peace? They still thought Jesus was going to have his kingdom on earth, do you think that had people wondering as he rode in on that donkey? Also, it was prophesied that he would ride a donkey. And remember, a donkey carried a poor, pregnant mother named Mary all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem!

Teen: Why did Jesus have to enter Jerusalem on a donkey? Why is that so important? The Jews were looking for an earthly king to free them from a physical bondage instead of a Savior King saving their souls (they were freed spiritually!) Do you ever struggle with seeing past the physical to the spiritual? What helps you keep your eyes on eternity and not the here and now?

Adult: In the latter part of the reading, it says the whole city was stirred. Jerusalem at that time was estimated to be about 25 acres in size with a population around 75,000 – 100,000. But at a feast like the Passover, many would come to Jerusalem, so the population could be much larger. With news passed by word of mouth, how much impact did Jesus have on the city? Would you consider it to be a bigger impact than if a celebrity came to Sand Springs today and electronic means let us all know?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: For us to celebrate everyday because Jesus is our savior and king.

October Memory Verse:

Psalm 103:12 (ESV)

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.



Week of Oct 15 - b

Scripture: Mt 21:12-13

Main Idea: Jesus finds the practice of the very profitable selling of animals and money changers in the temple area to be offensive. This was supposed to be a place of prayer. The religious leaders had made it a place of profit. Jesus does the humanly impossible by healing the blind and lame and welcoming the children with their “crying out” Hosanna to the Son of David. He then reminds the leaders of Ps 8:2 “Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise.”

Questions

Preschool: Do you think Jesus was upset with the way people were using the temple? Why?

Grade school: How would you feel if you came to church on Sunday and instead of church, there was an indoor flea market? Would you feel a little cheated – you came to learn about God and now there are books for sale for .50. How much worse would that have been for Jesus... to walk into his Father’s house and find a flea market? And not just any flea market, this sale had animals! It would have been loud and smelly!

Teen: Why did Jesus find this so offensive? They saw the good Jesus had done and were indignant. Why were they upset that Jesus was doing good for the temple, and the people?

Adult: Jews who had to travel to Jerusalem could find it hard to transport an appropriate sacrifice, keeping it unblemished. Someone determined to sell animals for sacrifices. Temple taxes needed to be paid, and some believe the moneychangers were there to convert foreign coins into Jewish or temple money. Based on Jesus' comments in this passage, some of these people were stealing from the people. What do you think drove them to do this? What should they have done to keep themselves from falling into this trap? Do you think Jesus would have reacted the same way had they been conducting the business outside the temple grounds?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: For us to stay far from greed and to trust God more

October Memory Verse:

Psalm 103:12 (ESV)

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.