

Palm Sunday

Passion Week - Jesus Enters Jerusalem - Mark 11:1-21

April 14, 2019

We begin Passion Week by recounting Christ's arrival to Jerusalem, and his cleansing of the Temple the next morning. How Jesus feels about what he sees happening in the Temple provides a window for us into how God views worship - and how serious worship is.

Questions:

1. Someone in your neighbourhood asks you what happens on Sundays when you attend "worship" at church. What do you tell them?
 - If *you* were creating a gathering for worship, what would it look like? How would it honour God and place Him at the very centre of everything that happens?
2. Read Mark 11:1-21. Jesus enters Jerusalem like a conquering king, yet in a few days the people will reject him, trading their shouts of praise for cries for his execution.
 - What makes these people so fickle? Is Jesus' cleansing of the temple connected to their change of heart?
3. The Temple was the centre of worship in Jewish life, the place where the Shekinah glory of God was present.
 - What does it mean for you that the Shekinah glory of God now abides in you through the Spirit of Christ?
4. Jesus comes to Jerusalem because Passover is being celebrated. He is coming not as the Davidic king, but as the Passover Lamb.
 - Read Isaiah 53. How could the religious leaders have somehow missed the clear prophecies (there are many others) that the Messiah would suffer in order to deliver people?
 - Are there instances in the Church today that also ignore God's clear message of humility, suffering and endurance within His Kingdom?
5. Read James 1:19-27 & Isaiah 1:10-20.
 - Both James and Isaiah really get to the nuts and bolts of worship, leaving little doubt of what God expects of those who love Him.
 - How are we at New Life measuring up in light of what God says through Isaiah and James?
 - Is God asking you to specifically step into someone's need today? Will you do it?
6. This is Passion Week, when God's incredible passion for people is put on full display in Jesus.
 - Make it your priority this week to put your passion for Jesus on display. Do it quietly and humbly, prayerfully and carefully. Take Christ's yoke upon you, and learn from him this week.
 - Find someone to serve this week, and in serving them imitate Christ's love in a practical, generous fashion.
 - Pray in particular this week for the person that God has placed on your heart - the individual that you would like to see embrace Jesus.