

# Westwood Baptist Church



*Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for April 2, 2023

## Sermon Notes

### The Triumphal Entry of the King

John 12

Today we fast-forward from Israel's need for a king in 1 & 2 Samuel to what is known as the triumphal entry into Jerusalem of God's promised King – Jesus the Messiah (we'll be back in 1 Samuel after Easter). The event is important enough that it's recorded in all four gospels. On Palm Sunday, it is retold and celebrated with palm branches and songs of praise, recalling a spontaneous celebration when pilgrims in Jerusalem for the Passover, many of whom had seen Jesus or heard of his wonderful works, lined the road welcoming him into the city and proclaiming him their king and deliverer. Shouting out the words of Psalm 118 the people declared, "Hosanna", literally meaning "save" or "salvation has come", "blessed be the King of Israel". And Jesus did not quiet the crowd or deny He was their rightful king. In fact, Luke tells us that when the Pharisees demanded Jesus quiet the crowds He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." (Luke 19:40)

But this picture has a dark side as well. The people wanted a deliverer to ride into town on a mighty warhorse and drive out the Romans. But Jesus came on the foal of a donkey symbolizing lowliness, meekness, and humility. King Jesus came to save, but it was not political salvation. He came to deliver people from bondage, not by wielding a sword, but by His own death on the cross. So the same people who cheered Jesus saying, 'here is our salvation' would cry out for His death a few days later when He failed to give them what they expected in the way they wanted.

John says Jesus' own disciples did not understand what they were seeing. How about us? How fickle is our praise when Jesus fails to meet our expectations? How short is our prayer when He does not come through for us as we would want? How shallow is our understanding of the salvation and deliverance King Jesus has come to provide?

Genuine Devotion: some recognize the King and worship him. (12:1-8)

Shallow Acclamation: many hail him as king, but he is not the savior they expected (12:9-19)

Gentile Inquiring: the world will see & follow him, but only after the glory of the cross (12:19-26)

Applications: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*  
*teaching* and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."  
- *Colossians 3:16a*

### Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

### Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

### Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor  
**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor  
**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students  
& Discipleship  
**Deborah Rudd:** Children's Ministry  
Coordinator  
**Yvonne Hager:** Executive Assistant

#### Contact Us

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#### APRIL

6 Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:00 p.m.  
7 Good Friday - Church Office Closed  
9 Easter Sunrise Service @ Hyco @ 6:30 a.m.  
9 Easter Fellowship Breakfast @ 9:00 a.m.  
9 Easter Worship Service @ **10:00 a.m.**  
12 Evangelism Class-Session 4 @ 6:30 p.m.  
20 BBA Spring Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.  
22 AHG Yard Sale for Life Choices  
26 Evangelism Class-Session 5 @ 6:30 p.m.  
30 Communion