

Palm Sunday 2010 Faces in the Crowd

28 After telling this story, Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking ahead of his disciples. 29 As he came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead. 30 "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying that colt?' just say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

32 So they went and found the colt, just as Jesus had said. 33 And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, "Why are you untying that colt?"

34 And the disciples simply replied, "The Lord needs it." 35 So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on.

36 As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. 37 When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

38 "Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!"

39 But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!"

40 He replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!" **Luke 19:36 (NLT)**

1. THE FACE OF OBEDIENCE

I have refused to walk on any evil path, so that I may remain obedient to your word. **Psalm 119:101**

"If you love me, obey my commandments." **John 14:15**

2. THE FACE OF THE CURIOUS

1 Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. 2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. 3 He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

5 When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." **Luke 19:1-5**

3. THE FACE OF THE WORSHIPPERS

23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." **John 4:23-24**

But if I say I'll never mention the Lord or speak in his name, his word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones! I am worn out trying to hold it in! I can't do it! **Jeremiah 20:9**

4. THE FACE OF COMPASSION

But you, O Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry **Psalm 86:15**

Palm Sunday 2010 Life Group Questions

If you could capture any event in history on video tape, which one event would it be?

How do you make your grand entry when you come home? With a silent grunt? A big splash? A hug and kiss? Yelling, "What's for dinner?"

In Roman times, the emperor was crowned with pomp and pageantry in a huge procession to the Roman Forum with the emperor astride a splendid stallion.

1. How would you compare this to the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem?
2. What do you think he was feeling as the crowds gathered?
3. What did the crowds expect of Jesus?
 - Why would the Pharisees be alarmed?
4. Why would Jesus weep over Jerusalem -- the religious establishment that caused him nothing but headaches?
 - Do you think Jesus had the destruction of Jerusalem in mind when he made the prophecy in verses Luke 19:43-44?
5. When Jesus got to the temple, what did he find?
 - How do you think he felt?
6. What saddened him about this whole episode?
 - If Jesus knew that he would be crucified in a few days, why did he go along with this?
 - Would you describe the triumphal entry as the beginning of the end of the end of the beginning?

Practical Application:

What group of people touches your heart -- that you weep for?

1. What kind of reception do you think Jesus would get:
 - a) If He rode in to your community today?
 - b) After the people in your community heard the message?
2. How do you think Jesus would be treated by the local media?
3. As you look at your community, how does your feeling compare with Jesus' feeling for Jerusalem?

Your story:

Has Jesus "turned over tables" in your life?

- What were they?
- How did you react?