



Does Your Truth Work?
Sermon Discussion Questions – April, 2 2023

Scripture Passages:

John 16:33 (NIV84) 33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the World.”

Mark 11:1–10 (NIV84) As they approached Jerusalem . . . Jesus sent two of his disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt (a young donkey) tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 3 If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’” 4 They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, 5 some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. 7 When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. 9 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” 10 “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Zechariah 9:9 (NIV84) 9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Luke 19:35 (NIV84) 35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.

2 Kings 9:13 (NIV84) 13 They hurried and took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, “Jehu is king!”

John 12:16 (NIV84) 16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

Mark 10:52 (NIV84) 52 “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Isaiah 42:1–7 (NIV84) “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. 2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. 3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; 4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope.” 5 This is what God the Lord says— he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: 6 “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, 7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

Warm Up:

I’ve recently grown to love hearing about people’s irrational fears and why they have them. Such fears that come from spiders, heights, the ocean, etc. Many of the fears we have come from a story either personal or from another person we know.

What irrational fear do you have? What other stories have you heard about irrational fears that seem kind of ridiculous?

Discussion:

1. Pastor Tom opened his message talking about the John 16:33 passage. What were your initial reactions to this passage? How have you personally interacted with different parts of this verse? (such as feeling peace in God’s presence or having had trouble in this world we live in).

2. This week is Palm Sunday and Pastor Tom gives us some context on Palm Sunday as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. "Palm Sunday is a culmination of what the Jewish people were anticipating. They were anticipating a Messiah who would come and restore them. Every Jewish person understood this. The anticipation was part of their culture. They were trained and immersed in it. They had daily prayers of anticipation of the coming Messiah."

What has your experience of Palm Sunday been? Do you relate with the Jewish people at times, such as anticipating a Messiah who would come and restore you?

3. In the midst of this Palm Sunday story Tom asks, "What's with the donkey?" We can find some reasoning behind it when reading Zachariah 9:9.

What would be your reaction to seeing a King riding on a donkey? What was the significance of Jesus riding on the donkey in that day?

4. Read Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:35; 2 Kings 9:13.

What similarities do you see? What differences do you see? What do you learn about from these passages when it comes to kingship? How might this impact the way you understand the message of Palm Sunday?

5. "Immediately, the expectations of an anticipated Messiah are met with the reality of the Messiah. Both his humility and his mission of peace were symbolized by the animal on which he rode"- Pastor Tom. Pastor Tom also gives some differences between Jesus and other kings saying:

He is riding a donkey representing peace, not a war horse representing a battle victory.

He will wear a crown of thorns, not a crown of gold and jewels.

He will rule from a cross, not a palace.

He will sacrifice for his people, not live off the sacrifices of the people.

He will be humble, not arrogant and ostentatious.

He will be a suffering servant, not have servants who suffer under him.

What are your reactions to these statements? How does Jesus' establishment of a kingdom differ, even from your own thoughts of how a king should reign?

6. Read John 12:16. Often the disciples did not understand Jesus.

Can you remember times when the disciples were confused about Jesus' teachings? How do you think the disciples came to understand these teachings? What do you think is our response in trying to understand the teachings and ways of Jesus?

7. "When God changes a life, we see what we missed, we hear what we haven't heard and he fills our lips with praise to him"- Pastor Tom.

How have you experienced this? In what ways has God revealed himself to you? What has been your response to him revealing himself to you?

8. Read Mark 10:52. Pastor Tom points to this healing that happens right after Jesus comes into Jerusalem.

How has God opened your eyes and healed your life?

Next Steps:

Use these questions to help guide your reflection or conversation:

Take a moment to read through Mark 11:1-10 one more time.

1. What do you learn about Jesus from this passage?
2. How is Jesus' depiction of kingship different from your assumptions about a king?

Now read through John 16:33 once more.

1. How or why might you be lacking peace?
2. What troubles are you currently facing?
3. Where might you see Jesus in the midst of your troubles?