

AstepFURTHER

DIVING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S SERMON

A resource of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale for individuals, families, and small groups that offers deeper insights into the previous Sunday's scripture text and sermon.

From the Sermon on 4/13/25 "The Triumphal Entry and the Call to True Salvation"

Scripture: John 12:12-15; Zechariah 9:9-10

Opening Prayer: "God of salvation, as we gather to study your Word, open our hearts and minds to understand the depth of your love and the true nature of your salvation. Guide us by your Holy Spirit to see beyond our expectations and embrace your divine plan. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Understanding the Context: (Explore aspects of the passage like place, adjacent scripture, and other elements)

1. What was the significance of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey, and how does this fulfill the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9?
2. How did the Roman Empire's presence during Passover influence the Jewish people's expectations of a Messiah?

Key Themes: (Extravagant Love)

3. How does the crowd's cry of "Hosanna" reflect both a plea for salvation and a celebration of God's saving power?
4. In what ways does Jesus' entry into Jerusalem contrast with the Roman military parade led by Pontius Pilate?

Application and Action:

5. How can we shift our understanding of salvation from worldly expectations to the spiritual salvation Jesus offers?
6. In what areas of your life are you seeking a savior, and how can you align these desires with the salvation Jesus provides?
7. How can we, as a church, embody the message of peace and love that Jesus demonstrated during His entry into Jerusalem?
8. What practical steps can you take this week to remind others of the true nature of Jesus' salvation?

Group Discussion:

If you are studying with others, discuss your reflections and insights.

1. Discuss how the symbolism of palm branches and the cry of "Hosanna" can be applied to our modern-day faith journey.
2. Share a time when you expected God to act in a certain way, but He responded differently. How did this experience shape your understanding of His salvation?

Closing Prayer: "Gracious God, thank you for revealing the true nature of your salvation through Jesus Christ. As we go forth, help us to live out your message of peace and love, trusting in your divine plan. Unite us as your church to be a beacon of hope in a world in need. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen."

Journal Prompt:

Reflect on the areas in your life where you are crying out "Hosanna." Write about how you can trust in God's plan for salvation, even when it doesn't align with your expectations.

