

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 17, 2011

Passage: Matthew 21:1-11

Memory Passage: Matthew 21:9

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Matt. 21:1-11, Zech. 14:1-4 & Ps. 48:1-3.** Picture yourself as a devout Jew living in Jesus' day, a Jew who knew the Scriptures well (including Zech. 14 & Ps. 48). What significance would you attach to Jesus, who "drew near to Jerusalem and came . . . to the Mount of Olives" (Matt. 21:1)?

(b) How did Jesus know that the animals would be just inside the village? Did He exercise His omniscience (complete knowledge of everything) or did He prearrange to have the animals ready for His need? On what basis did you answer?

(c) If you were one of the disciples Jesus sent to get the animals, what would you have been talking about on the way into town? Maybe questioning why Jesus, who always walked with you into every town in which you arrived, needed an animal this time? And maybe, if he did need an animal, why not a white stallion like the generals would use in their victory parades? Would you be questioning His wisdom? His sanity?

(d) *Family:* Play this video for your family— http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KUKZ5y_Yss — of the 1937 Coronation of King George VI. The video is obviously old and a little hard to see and is about 10 minutes long, but it is fascinating and will prep you for this week's study. Then **Read Matt. 21:1-11** and ask your family, "What differences did you see between the entry of King Jesus & the coronation of King George?" Lead them in a discussion of the differences, and then ask, "Why do you think Jesus enters Jerusalem in such a different way?" Tell them that this week you will study what is known as Jesus' "Triumphal Entry" & learn why there were so many differences between King George & King Jesus.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Matt. 21:1-11 & Zech. 9:1-10.** According to Matt. 21:4 why was it necessary to procure the colt & donkey?

(b) Zech. 9:1-7 gives us a list of Israel's enemies that God will judge. We will focus on vs. 8-10. What is prophesied in v. 8 concerning God's actions on behalf of His people? To what does "my house" refer?

(c) In v. 9, what are God's people commanded to do? What characteristics are we given of this king over whom the people should rejoice? How will this king come to the people according to v. 9? What does God promise he will do in v. 10?

(d) Picture yourself again as the devout Jew who was watching the events in Matt. 21:1-11 unfold, a Jew who knew well the prophesy found in Zech. 9. What would you be expecting this King to do? What would you do if you were part of the crowd?

(e) *Family:* **Read Matt. 21:1-5.** Ask, "Why was it necessary for the disciples to get the colt & donkey?" (To fulfill prophecy). Then **Read Zech. 9:8-10.** Explain that the first 7 verses tell of God judging Israel's enemies, then lead your family in a discussion using b, c & d above (the answers to question d are: The King would be expected to cut off and disarm the oppressors of God's people, namely Rome, and, if we were in the crowd we would be "rejoicing greatly & shouting aloud.")

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Matt. 21:1-11.** Why did the crowd spread their cloaks on the road for the animals and Jesus to walk upon (cf. 2 Kings 9:12-13)? What three phrases did the crowds shout? The word "hosanna" means "save, now!" or "O save!" Were the crowds correct in their praise? From what were the crowds asking to be saved?

(b) When the crowds shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" what were they acknowledging about Christ? Were they correct in their praise? Do you think everyone in the crowd was a true worshiper of Christ? Why or why not?

(c) Who is in control of every aspect of these events? Why do you think Jesus allowed this kind of worship and public announcing of Himself as the Messiah to happen when he had stopped it so many times before (e.g. Matt. 9:27-31; John 2:4; 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1)?

(d) *Family:* Guide your family through DAY 4, questions a, b, & c as you establish the truth that, though Solomon is the person directly referred to in 2 Sam. 7:12-15, Jesus is the promised Davidic Messiah who will sit on David's throne eternally, reign over His kingdom, and be a representative for His people ("firstborn"). Apply these truths to Jesus entering Jerusalem as the promised King to the shouts of, "Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Sam. 7:1-17.** These verses contain God's covenant with David (although the word "covenant" does not appear in these verses, Ps. 89:3 indeed describes it as a covenant). In these verses David desires to build God a house (v. 2), but God promises to build David a house (v. 11). What is the difference between these houses?

(b) Of whom is God speaking in vs. 12-15? How does God's promise to raise up this man, establish David's house, kingdom & throne forever (v. 16; see next question if you are not sure)?

(c) **Read Ps. 2, Ps. 89:26-27 Luke 1:31-33 & Heb. 1:5-6.** According to these passages, through whose reign will David's throne, kingdom and house be established? Why is it significant that this Messianic King is the "firstborn?" How do we as New Covenant believers fit into and benefit from God's covenant with David?

(d) *Family: Read Matt: 11:1-11.* Explain to your family that even though there were many in the crowd shouting praises to Jesus and "the whole city was stirred up," many of these people were misunderstanding who Jesus was and what He came to do. They recognized Him as the Messiah, but thought He was coming to physically sit on Israel's throne and free them from Roman rule. They did not understand that His "kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). Explain that their shouts of "Hosanna" (Save Now!) were more correct than many of them knew because Jesus did come to "save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). He came to earth to die as a humble servant for the sins of His people (hence the donkey instead of a stallion; a humble arrival compared to the coronation of King George). Lead your family through the Gospel: Man is a sinner in need of a Savior, and Jesus came, as the promised heir to David's throne, to represent His people before God as the perfect sacrifice for their sin so that all who repent of their sin and believe on Him shall be saved and have eternal life with Him.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) You have learned (or reminded yourself) this week that many of Jesus' worshipers in Matt. 21:1-11 had a misconception about who He was and what He came to do. Think for a moment about your own life. In what ways do you have misconceptions about Jesus? Just a few questions to start your thinking: Do you think that there are sins you have committed for which He just can't forgive you? Do you think that there are sins you commit about which He is not really concerned? Do you think His main concern for your life is your happiness? Do you think He is obligated to bless you in certain and specific ways because of your obedience? Do you think (or act like) Jesus' command to make disciples is for other people but not for you? Do you deny the power of the resurrection directed toward you (Eph. 1:19-20) by living a life unaffected by the gospel? Don't stop with my questions. Ask God to reveal to you your misconceptions about Jesus and write down what He shows you.

(b) Grace is what allows us to come before Christ, have Him reveal to us our sin, repent of that sin, and rise in the power of the gospel to live for Him again in spite of that sin. Spend some time with the Lord repenting of any misconceptions He revealed to you. Then read through Psalm 118 and use it as a guide for a time of prayer and worship. This Psalm is the last of the Hallel (Hebrew word for "praise") Psalms (113-118), which were sung as part of the festivals of Israel. Verses 25-26 are the verses the crowds quoted in Matt. 21:9 ("Hosanna" is transliteration of the Hebrew word for "Save us" in v. 25). Spend time praying this Psalm to God and worshipping Him, "giving thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!"

(c) *Family:* Spend this lesson acting out Matt. 21:1-11. Use coats, fern branches (unless you have a palm tree in your yard!), older children playing the colt for younger children to ride on as Jesus did, shout the praises of the people, and remind everyone that even though Jesus came riding on a donkey He came in power and majesty to establish His kingdom and die on the cross so that His people would have life!

DATE: April 17, 2011

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The Entry of The Humble King