Palm Sunday Small Group Questions

Read through the various gospel depictions of the triumphal entry narrative. What is the same? What is different? Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-16

Think about why people were in Jerusalem. It was Passover, the celebration of the liberation of their forefathers from Slavery in Egypt and the launching of the trek to the Promised Land, and signifying the Hope of God’s deliverance. How did understanding that fuel the hearts of the people in their reception of Jesus, a known teacher and miracle worker.

The word Hosanna can be translated “Save.” What did that affirmation of praise mean to the crowd on the streets? What are contemporary words that we use to express the same sentiment? Does it mean the same to us as it did for them?

The title Messiah (Anointed One) is ascribed to Jesus as the Holy One who would usher in a reign of peace – a form of salvation. Did the crowd in the streets all understand they needed salvation and Jesus would bring it? Would that have been the same or different for a merchant from Bethany, or a family from Galilee or a Pharisee from Jerusalem?

Jesus was also heralded as a Conquering King, one in the line of David. Think about Jesus as a King. The donkey played a particular role. What does it mean symbolically that Jesus entered Jerusalem on its back?

In establishing his throne, rule and reign but not in the ways that people expected. What do you think they expected and how would Jesus serve as a different kind of King?