

Palm Sunday

Rev. Mike King, Associate Pastor

April 1, 2012

Matthew 11.1-10

What's the main problem, worry, or challenge you're facing in life?

- During Jesus' life the people of Israel thought their main problem was a political and military one:
the Roman army was occupying their land.
- They knew God had promised to send them a deliverer, the Messiah, and many in Israel expected the Messiah to lead them to a _____.
- Military heroes were welcomed into a city with palm branches, shouts, and hymns. (1 Maccabees 13.51)

That's how the crowd welcomed Jesus on this day. As Jesus entered the city, the people thought he was the Messiah so they shouted " _____ " which means " _____ ". (Mark 11.1-10)

Today's big idea:

- If you don't know what the _____ really is you won't know what the _____ is.
- Remember, the people of Israel thought the Roman army was their main problem.
- But Jesus knew that the real problem wasn't a political or military problem. The real problem was that _____ from God because of _____.

Aren't we in the same boat?

- Our real problem is that _____ from God because of _____. (Romans 3.23)

Going back to the problems we thought about earlier:

- Maybe we don't have money problems or relationship problems or people problems. Maybe a sin problem is the root of many of the things we struggle with.

The heart of the gospel:

- We are more broken than we can ever know, but we are more loved than we can ever imagine. (Romans 5.8)
- Motivated by love, Jesus entered Jerusalem _____ so that we could be forgiven. (Colossians 1.19)

Talk it over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group.

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.

- Can you think of a time when you misdiagnosed a problem you were facing? What were the results of that? Did your attempts to fix the problem work? Why or why not?
- In what areas do you see other people “misdiagnosing the problem” in their lives or in our world today? How can you help them with that?
- Why do you think God had you here today? What do you need to do in light of what you experienced during today's worship services?

Some next steps Here are some things you can do this week to dig deeper:

- Who can you invite to join you for church next week? Make sure you check the website for times for all of our Holy Week activities, but prayerfully consider who you can invite to join you. Service times are at 8:45 and 11:00, but make sure you get there early so you can sit with your guest!
- Take some time this week to read through the accounts of the last week of the Jesus life. There are four different accounts of this week found in Matthew 21-28, Mark 11-16, Luke 19-24, and John 12-21. Immerse yourself in the story of the last week of Jesus' life, and come ready to celebrate the power and reality of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

