

GROWTH GROUPS

March 24, 2013

Matthew 15:8-10, Zechariah 9:9-12, and Luke 19:28-40

Conversation Starter: How many Palm Sunday worship services have you attended in your life. If you are like most people you have been to many in the course of your life. You know the story pretty much by heart. So close our eyes for a moment and imagine what it would be like to be in that crowd along the road to Jerusalem. Think about the smells, the sounds and the excitement in the air. Now open your eyes and think about how this crowd experience compares to other crowd experiences in your life.

Understanding: The scriptures for this week continue to challenge us to understand the sense of drama and significance of Jesus entering into Jerusalem in this fashion. We have heard the story so many times. Now this time we have added Jesus' words from Matthew 15:8-10 in which Jesus talks about how many people honor God with their lips but not with their heart or with their life. These words go surprisingly well with the Palm Sunday passage when one considers that this same crowd would be crying out with their hearts and lips for the governor to crucify Jesus later the same week. In the message we spoke at some length about what it means to honor God. We spoke about surrendering to God and trusting God with our heart, our mind, our lips and our lives. Sometimes it is easier than other times and sometimes are more challenging for us.

Questions

1. When you think of honoring God with your heart what is the first thing that comes to mind? What is the most challenging thing about bringing honor to God? Is that really just about giving your best or is something else involved?
2. How do you tie together honoring God with your all, loving God with your all, and trusting God in the harder circumstances of your life?
3. On Pentecost Sunday when Peter preacher and 3000 people committed their lives to believe in Christ honoring God began with hearing the good news and believing the truth about Jesus. When that large crowd trusted and honored God they devoted their time and lives to seek God in four areas. (Acts2:42) Which of those four areas of devotion of the early believers is an area that you need to grow most in? How will an adjustment in that area have the most impact in your honoring of God?