

Do You Believe—Listen!

Sermon Notes

April 9, 2017

The Coming King. **John 12:12-16**

- Mission—Hosanna: “Save”
 - They expected to be saved from the tyranny of a foreign oppressor.
 - Some may have even anticipated a spiritual revival that would unify the people of Israel.
 - Certainly the crowd was not foreseeing a king entering Jerusalem to die.
 - Saving them was indeed his aim, but not by the means or in the way they were expecting.
 - *They simply did not listen...*

Luke 18:31-33; 19:10 *“Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again...For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.”*

- They identify him as king. (13)
 - They see him as a powerful leader capable of doing what seemed impossible in their minds before.
 - They see him as being sent from the Lord God.
 - While not wrong in their identification and by whom he was sent, they did not understand his status as being one with God and the king of kings who offers life eternal.
 - *They did not listen...*

John 5:36-40 *“I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you for you do not believe the one he sent. You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”*

- Jesus is the King to all people not just Jerusalem.
 - They know the scriptures yet miss out on the whole of Scripture.
 - They did not listen...

Zechariah 9:9-10; 14:9 *“Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots of Ephraim and warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth...The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.”*

If they did not listen, then why the crowds? John 12:17-19

- Word had spread about the resurrection of Lazarus, and they wanted to see a man who could resurrect the dead. (18)
- Deaf ears led to blind eyes even with an inarguable resurrection. (19)

Seeing is not believing. Luke 16:19-31

- Knowing the scriptures is not salvific.
- If one listens to the scriptures they will discover where salvation can be found. (29)
- To simply amaze someone and get their attention is not enough, they must listen. (30-31)

Are you listening?

1. Jesus came to save you and give you life through his death and resurrection.
2. Pay attention to what you read in Scripture and listen that you may find life.
3. Do not presume upon God to show off his power to change the heart of another. Hope is found in listening and responding to the Story!

So, yes, there is power in the name of Jesus!

Do you believe—Listen!

Group Discussion Guide

April 9, 2017

Context: At the beginning of the week, people were waving palm branches and yelling “Hosanna”. At the end of the week, they were yelling “Crucify Him!” It is a peculiar change how the masses responded to Jesus within a short amount of time.

Texts:

John 12:12-19

Luke 16:19-31

Group Discussion Guide:

Read **John 12:12-19**. Historically, how would you have explained to a person not familiar with the Bible why the crowds chanted “hosanna” on Palm Sunday and “crucify him” on Friday? According to this passage, what was the explanation given as to the size of the crowd? What does this say about the type of people in the crowd? How would this explain the shift in response just a few days later?

What is the difference between someone who is motivated by fascination versus someone who is motivated by truth seeking? Can you give any examples from modern day that you have observed?

Read **Luke 16:19-31**. In verse 27, what did the rich man who was in hell most desire of Lazarus to do? Why did he think that Lazarus would be the most effective messenger of the reality of eternal consequence? What was the response of Abraham to his request? What does that say about the role of miraculous signs versus listening to seek the truth in regards to ones journey towards salvation? So, what is more powerful “Seeing is believing” or “Seeking truth with an open heart and mind”? Why?

How does this affect your approach in how you pray for someone’s salvation? How does this affect how you discuss the gospel with someone who is lost?

Prayer:

Father, give us new perspective of the realities of eternity without the demand of signs. May we trust you without the need to see, but Lord in your grace may you show us your presence for our faith is often weak.

God help us in our search for truth to understand more greatly your heart, your will, and ultimately your purpose for our lives.