



The Lazarus Life | Who is your Jesus • Week Six • March 25, 2018

Seasonal Focus: We are in the season of Lent, where for centuries, people across all different faith traditions set aside these weeks for the purpose of deep spiritual reflection, humility, learning, prayer and placing themselves before God in a way that would shape them.

We have entered Holy Week, the final week of Lent.

How has Lent been going for you? If you gave up or added on something in this season, what has that been like for you?

What have you learned about yourself or about God? How have you experienced more of God in this season?

Read: John 11:38-44 and 12:9-19

Opening: Have you ever ridden a donkey? Where were you and how was it? Do you have any Palm Sunday memories that you'd like to share?

Discussion: This weekend, Pastor Pete Stearns led us through this next portion of the Lazarus story alongside the story of Palm Sunday.

1. The Palm Sunday crowd.

- What do you know of the Passover feast held in Jerusalem each year? What was it commemorating? (if needed, see Exodus 11:4-7;12:1-32)
- What do you think people were especially coming to see at the Passover celebration this particular year that John is writing about? (John 12:9)

2. Some People came to see "Entertainment Jesus".

- How do you relate to the people in the crowd? What would you hope to see in or from Jesus? What would you ask Lazarus if you met up with him?
- What are you looking for in Jesus? An experience? A feeling? A miracle? A therapy? A Benevolent Ruler? A genie? A Savior?

3. Some People came to see "My Plan - Jesus".

- How do your own needs drive the consistency or lack of consistency in your relationship with Jesus? What does this reveal?



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- In what ways do you have God fitting into your plans; fulfilling your dreams, affirming your views or achieving your success? Where does alignment need to shift for you?
- Why do you think we like to keep God within our limited constructs?

3. Some People came to anoint their king.

- The people longed to be delivered from Roman oppression. What do you long for Jesus to deliver you from or free you from?
- How have you come to relate to Jesus as your King? What role do trust and surrender play with Jesus as King?

4. Jesus' presentation of Himself

- Jesus rode in on a donkey. What does this say about him?
- When you discover that Jesus is ultimately different than who you thought he was, what happens to your faith?
- What does your view of Jesus say about who or what might quickly replace him?

Practice for this Holy Week:

Solitude: to leave people behind and enter into time alone with God

- Schedule uninterrupted time in a distraction-free environment to better listen to God
- Give yourself space to internalize what God is speaking or showing you this week.
- Listen to this week's Lenten devotional. Text 'devo' to 630-206-3230.

Additional Resources:

The Lazarus Life: Spiritual Transformation for Ordinary People by Stephen W. Smith

Invitation to Solitude and Silence: Experiencing God's Transforming Presence by Ruth Haley Barton

The Jesus I Never Knew by Philip Yancey

We'd love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you and your group, please let us know.

We would also LOVE to hear how God is using these Scriptures and study guides in your lives.

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