

# Discipleship Moment

**Text: Luke 19:28-40**

Holy Week, the week we celebrate the last few days of Jesus' life (until his resurrection). We tend to rush past this week in order to get to Easter, with its celebratory worship service and family meals. But in the Gospels, the authors did not rush this week: in fact, a full one third of the literary real estate of the Gospels is dedicated to this week. The writers, inspired by the Holy Spirit, did not rush this week, and we shouldn't either.

*Palm Sunday:* We celebrated Jesus' triumphant entry. Amid shouts of "Hosanna" and "Bless the King," Jesus wept (Luke 19:41-44). We're faced with the expectations we have of Jesus, and Jesus' insistence that we have it all wrong. Riding on a peacetime animal, and refusing to let the Pharisees threaten him, Jesus ruggedly, staunchly, lived by the Holy Spirit, and according to his convictions.

*Maundy Thursday:* Jesus teaches his disciples about true authority. By stripping down and washing the feet of his followers, then tells them he will be betrayed by one of them. He teaches them about his sacrifice by inviting them to participate in his suffering by a meal, even the one who would betray him. We Jesus practice service, radical hospitality, and sacrifice. This, he says, is God's way to be human: the way of love.

*Good Friday:* The triumphant King's inauguration. Jesus is enthroned on the cross and shows his power and might by not fighting but giving up his life. He defeats death by dying, he is victorious by losing, he is powerful by being powerless.

What a mystery! Jesus frustrates so many of our expectations. And he is so much more amazing than we could have ever imagined.

This week is the central mystery of our faith. Everything else we believe, and practice, is based off of this radical week of serving, dying, and rising again. I wonder what it would be like if we let this Way of Jesus influence us? I wonder what it would be like if we followed this way?

I imagine we would experience Resurrection, and new life.

## Going Deeper

*Use this resource to start conversations about this week's sermon for your personal devotions, with your family, or with your Life Group. You can use one question per day or all at once*

1. What was most surprising about the sermon this week? What did you think about the disciples expectations? The Pharisees expectations?
2. What is most shocking to you about Jesus' teachings and actions during Holy Week? The Last Supper? Good Friday? Why?
3. Why do you think Jesus would ride a donkey's colt into Jerusalem? He was entering into the seat of political power in Israel, but rode a peacetime animal? What are the implications of this?
4. Read John 6:25-59. What does this passage tell us about Jesus? What does it tell us about Holy Communion? Why do you think Jesus said this?
5. Why do you think Jesus needed to die on the cross? What is so special about death as a criminal and rebel that this is the way Jesus needed to be killed in order to save us? What does it tell us about Jesus' way of life? About the way of the world?
6. Plan your Holy Week. Make a commitment to take part in the Holy Week services. Plan a fast on Saturday, withhold food or other comforts on Saturday. Prepare your heart for the celebration of the Resurrection!