

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION

1 Corinthians – Building Community

Sermon Series

- 05 Apr 2020** **Matthew 21:1-11** **The Triumphant Entry (Palm Sunday)**
- 12 Apr 2020** **John 20:24-29** **Christ is Risen (Easter Sunday)**
- 19 Apr 2020** **1 Corinthians 9:1-18** **Living for the Gospel I**
- 26 Apr 2020** **1 Corinthians 9:19-27** **Living for the Gospel II**

05 Apr 2020

Matthew 21:1-11

The Triumphant Entry (Palm Sunday)

INTRODUCTION

Bethphage is remembered as the starting point of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on the day that is commemorated as Palm Sunday. The village is located less than a mile east of Jerusalem, on the southeast slope of the Mount of Olives which directly overlooks the temple. Jesus is about to enter Jerusalem for the final part of his ministry. The same scene is recorded in Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:29-38, and John 12:12-15.

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Jesus gives two of his disciples very specific instructions when they reach Bethphage. What are they and what is significant about the instructions given?

2. Matthew 21:4-5 is a quote from Zechariah 9:9. Read Zechariah 9:9-17.
 - a. What does Zechariah 9:9 say about the one coming?

 - b. What promises would the crowds have recalled when they saw Jesus entering on a colt?

 - c. How did the crowds expect these promises to be fulfilled?

3. Who did the crowds identify Jesus as? How did they respond?

APPLICATION

4. The crowds welcomed Jesus because they expected him to fulfil certain promises in a specific way.
 - a. What expectations of Jesus did you have when you first welcomed Him into your life?

 - b. How have your expectations or view of Jesus changed since then?

5. Hudson Taylor said, "Christ is either Lord of all, or not Lord at all." What does it mean for you that Jesus is your Lord (King) AND Saviour? How is Jesus' kingship seen in your life today?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

Jesus is not just a prophet, but also the Messiah, the King. His triumphal entry into Jerusalem declared his status as King of the Jews, and of all of creation. We must recognise Jesus' kingship of the world and of our lives.

GROUP/PERSONAL REFLECTION

Share about a time when God did not appear to have lived up to your expectations of him. What did you expect that God will do? What happened instead? What impact did it have on your faith?

Who do you identify Jesus as? How does your knowledge of who He is impact the way you respond to Him and His commands? What implications does Jesus' identify have on your daily life (consider family, friendships, church, work and society)?

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

12 Apr 2020

John 20:24-29

Christ is Risen (Easter Sunday)

INTRODUCTION

This episode is not the first time Jesus has appeared to the disciples (see John 20:24). Just before this, Jesus had appeared to the disciples, who were gathered in a locked room for fear of the Jews. He identified himself, proving his identity with the injuries on his hands and side. While he was there, he reassured them and gave them the Holy Spirit. But Thomas was not with them.

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. What proof did Thomas require in order to believe in Jesus' resurrection? Why do you think he said this? (cf. John 20:19-23)

2. Consider Luke 24:36-49.
 - a. How did the disciples react to Jesus' appearance among them? How is this similar to Thomas' response in John 20:24-29?

 - b. Did the disciples believe the moment they saw and touched Jesus? Why or why not?

 - c. What did it take for the disciples to finally believe that Jesus had risen?

3. What was Thomas' response when he saw Jesus? Why might this be?

4. What did Jesus say to Thomas before and after Thomas believed in His resurrection? What does this teach us about the way Jesus reveals Himself calls people to believe in Him?

APPLICATION

5. Why don't we need to see Jesus in person and touch Him in order to believe that He is the risen Lord? What compelling proof(s) do we have?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

Christians are to use their freedoms, and if necessary, give up their freedoms and rights, in order to build up other Christians, and bring the gospel message to non-Christians.

Paul does whatever he can, regardless of his rights, to win whoever he can. Because Paul knows that the gospel will reach further, faster, if he does not insist on the freedoms and rights he could enjoy as a Christian and apostle, Paul gives it all up.

GROUP/PERSONAL REFLECTION

What are some rights that you need to give up for the sake of the gospel?

How can you set an example for others as Paul did?

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

26 Apr 2020

1 Corinthians 9:19-27

Living for the Gospel II

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. What has Paul decided to do with the freedom he enjoys as a Christian (v19)? Why does he do this? (v19-22)

2. Think back over what you have seen the Corinthian church was like from chapters 1-9.
 - a. What were their priorities?

 - b. How would verse 19 have been a real challenge to them?

3. In verses 24-27, what kind of athletic images does Paul use to portray the Christian journey?
 - a. Verse 24

 - b. Verse 26

 - c. How does this look like for Paul (v27)?

APPLICATION

4. 1 Cor 9:19-23 is cited often in relation to doing missionary ministry in such a way that we adapt appropriately to the host culture, a process called contextualization. What are some lines that believers should never cross in our desire to contextualize to a host culture?

5. How does 1 Cor 9:24-27 encourage any Christian who teaches others? And what is the warning?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

There is no more powerful expression of the love of God than the cross. The cross is where Jesus emptied Himself of His infinite rights and glory for our salvation. It is where he himself experienced joy and, ironically, glory (Phil 2:6-11, Heb 12:1-3). This pattern is essential to the Christian life as Paul shows.

GROUP/PERSONAL REFLECTION

Have you ever thought that certain musical genres or evangelistic methods are essential features of the Christian faith? Beware of obscurantism - confusing the gospel with some idea or expression external to the gospel.

Have you ever accepted the religious convictions of a particular culture (e.g. traditional Chinese religious practices)? Beware of presenting these religious convictions in a manner that denies or distorts the gospel.

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?