

FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD 3.28.2021

Let's look at the Bible readings for Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28, to prepare for on-line, drive-in, and in-person worship (10 am) with Abounding Joy.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: John 12:12-19

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was

glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO JOHN CHAPTER 12

1. Note that the quotation in verse 15 is out of today's reading from Zechariah.
2. Look up the meaning of the word "hosanna."
3. In ancient Israel a king would often ride a lowly donkey instead of a war horse. What did that symbolize? What does it say about who is the ultimate authority?
4. In verse 16 to what does the phrase "when he was glorified" refer?
5. In John's gospel, the raising of Lazarus from the dead is the last straw, the match that lights the fuse that leads to Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. What do you make of the words of the Pharisees in verse 19? About what were they worried?

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak

peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO ZECHARIAH, CHAPTER 9:

1. What is the source or cause of the “abounding joy” in this passage?
2. What river is spoken of in verse 10?
3. These words are spoken to the people of Israel who had been dragged off to Babylon as captives. What gracious promises does the Lord give to them?
4. How are all of us, as Christians, “prisoners of hope”? That is, how are we prisoners of something and at the same time hopeful?

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the

point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO PHILIPPIANS, CHAPTER 2:

1. This Bible reading, if graphed, would look like a giant U. It traces the journey of Jesus from glory, down to humility, and then back up to glory again. How does what happened to Jesus relate to our journey in this life and in the next?
2. In verse 5 Paul says that we are to have the mind (attitude), that is already ours in Jesus. Someone has said that “humility is not thinking less of yourself, but rather thinking of yourself less.” How does that relate to this passage?
3. Though now many do not acknowledge Jesus as Lord, what do verses 10 and 11 say about how it will be on the last day after Jesus returns?
4. How can we “bow” our knees and confess Jesus as Lord in our lives today?

Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47 (the extended passion reading)