

FAITH COMES BY HEARING Bible Study – 3.20.24 (for 3.24.24)

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.

- 1) Zechariah wrote these words to the people after they returned from exile. They experience discouragement and doubt because the transformation earlier prophets had pronounced hadn't occurred as of yet. How would Zechariah's words have encouraged the people to trust God's faithfulness?
- 2) Zechariah prophesied that when the coming king showed up, his entry would be unique and yet still triumphal over Israel's enemies. What did Zechariah invite the people to do in anticipation of that day?
- 3) What descriptive words does Zechariah use of this king throughout this passage?

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

⁹Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, ¹⁰for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and

more, ¹¹and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, ¹²so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

- 1) The Thessalonian church was distinctly marked by their acts of love towards one another. How do Christians learn what it means to love each other?
- 2) In what ways do we see the Thessalonians modelling this love through Paul, Silas, and Timothy's words?

- 3) The trio mentions in verse twelve “walking” before outsiders. What pace do you go when walking? What else happens when you “walk”?

GOSPEL: John 12:12-26

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.” ²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

- 1) This is a high point in the story of Jesus, and the large crowd joins into the excitement! What do you notice about Jesus in this scene?
- 2) Why do you think that the crowd celebrated Jesus in this way? What did they think He was coming into the city to do? What was the Pharisees’ response to all of this?
- 3) As Jesus comes to Jerusalem, He meets some Greeks. When Jesus mentions the grain of wheat falling to the ground and dying, what is He teaching us about Himself? What is He teaching us about ourselves?