

April 13, 2014

Lesson 27: King, Crucified

John 12:12-17

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,
'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!'

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!'

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify.



King, Crucified

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The Big Story Truth: The scene of Jesus entering Jerusalem is so hopeful. But against all expectation, glory for this king will not be found in political victory... but in death on the cross.

About This Scripture Passage: This scripture passage rewinds back to where we were about a month ago. After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, this is the scene when he entered Jerusalem. We have already heard the stories of what happened once he was there. Those voices that sing “Hosanna” as Jesus is entering the city will not be there when their leaders cry out “Crucify him.” The palm branches they throw on the ground in front of him are symbols of national victory- but there will be no national victory for Jesus. Before the week is through he will be dead. Today our Scripture readings begin with this scene of triumphal entry, but they will end with the crucifixion of the One True King.



Making the Connection:

Everyone in the Gospel has expectations for who they think Jesus should be. The disciples, the crowds, the Jewish leaders, the Roman rulers. No one, though, could have anticipated how Jesus would be glorified... through his death. The cross is the image both of Jesus' great love and of God's glory. The cross is where the full truth of Jesus' identity is revealed. In the cross, the glory of God is seen by humanity. In the cross, Jesus' power and his love are fully shown.

The beginning of Holy Week marks a very sensory experience of worship for children. The waving of palms, the Maundy Thursday experience of foot washing, confession, and partaking of communion, the starkness of Good Friday. All of these experiences are ways in which children "feel" the importance of this week. This is a week of participating in the glory of God. It's a week of finding ourselves in relation to the cross. It's a week of seeing God's great love for us and for all people. The goal of today's lesson is to welcome our children into the experience of worship this week that within these rituals and the story telling they will experience the glory of God.

Where in the World Are We? In this scripture passage we read about entering into Jerusalem. The events of Holy Week unfold in this city.

For Your Reflection:

What is your first memory of hearing the story of Jesus' passion (crucifixion)? What made that moment memorable? What feelings do you carry from that experience?

How might you invite your children to experience the holiness of this week?



