

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Signs on Believers' Highway, Lesson 44

Lesson Title: The Triumphal Entry

Take Home Point: Jesus gave his life for us, so we can share him with others.

Warm-Up:

Imagine you gave some money to your church designated for a specific purpose, such as providing scholarships to young people preparing for full time ministry. But later you find out the funds were redirected by the staff leadership to build a nice fountain in the courtyard instead. Or perhaps you gave a large sum to a relief organization that provides food, clothing, and agricultural training to starving people in desperate need. Later on, however, you learn that the treasurer of the organization embezzled thousands of dollars, leaving none to provide aid to the people you sought to help. How would you feel about these circumstances? What would be your thoughts and emotions toward the persons who did not extend your gift to those for whom you intended it, to those who needed it?

Read: John 12:12-33; 2 Corinthians 5:15

Observation (What happened?):

How did Jesus enter Jerusalem? How did the crowd respond to him?

Who is honored by the Father?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did Jesus make the reply he did when he was told the Greeks wanted to see him?

Why do you think the events in this account troubled Jesus' heart?

Insight:

For most people, the typical expectation is that anyone claiming to be a king would arrive with a display of power, wealth, and authority that impresses the intended subjects. Clearly, though, that is not what Jesus did when he entered Jerusalem. But by riding a donkey, he was following in the footsteps of his ancestor King David and other righteous kings of Israel. The donkey symbolized a reign of peace, not war. Jesus rode into Jerusalem as the Prince of Peace. He offered peace to the people of that time and offers it to us still today. Not only is he the way to peace with God, he is the way to peace in our heart and toward others. Now, two thousand years after Jesus lived, with millions of Christians in the world, there does not seem to be much peace. But his example and his teaching do not change – we are to be people of peace. We are not to keep his peace to ourselves. We are to give it to the world around us. What better way to offer the life of Jesus to a world in conflict? There are an infinite number of ways to share it at home, in the workplace, in the neighborhood, and everywhere you go. The important thing is to follow God's calling to demonstrate a life of peace in your heart and in dealing with others.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How are you sharing Jesus with others?

What do you do to demonstrate to Jesus that he is your king?

Lesson 44