



Here's what we celebrate today:

- God's love is greater than your bank statement.
- God's love is greater than your sin.
- Jesus establishes relationship, not religion.
- We celebrate God's grace.

12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.

13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" John 12:12-13 (NIV)

The crowds perspective was:

- What's in it for me?
- 13 "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" John 12:13 (NIV)

When the crowd realized Jesus was not going to do what they expected:

15 But they shouted, 'Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!...' John 19:15 (NIV)

Lesson:

Our natural bent to be self-centered leads to deception.

The Religious leaders perspective:

- I'm in control.
- 19 The Pharisees said to each other, 'We've lost. Look – the whole world has gone after Him. John 12:19 (NIV)

Lesson:

Our desire for control creates an un-teachable heart.

The disciples perspective:

- Not like this!

21 From then on Jesus began to tell His disciples plainly that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem, and that He would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day He would be raised from the dead.

22 But Peter took Him aside and began to reprimand Him for saying such things. 'Heaven forbid, Lord,' he said. 'This will never happen to You!' Matthew 16:21-22 (NLT)

Lesson:

Our lack of trust in God's plan produces Blindness.

15 For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes— so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.'

16 "But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. Matthew 13:15-16 (NLT)

- The Key is Faith.

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)464-5754

Here are some questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- Is Jesus' triumphal entry something you would have celebrated in the past? Why?
- If you were there at Jesus' triumphal entry, what would you think of the event?
- The crowds perspective was: What's in it for me? How are we prone to this same perspective today?
- How does our natural bent to be self-centered lead us to deception?
- Like the religious leaders, why do we try to be in control? How does our control create an unteachable heart?
- Why do you think the disciples perspective was: "Not like this"?
- Why does our lack of trust produce blindness?
- Why is faith the key that changes our perspective? In your own words, what does this mean?

Connection Group Leaders: Remind your group of the following announcements:
Cleaning Day: April 15th **Invite a friend to Easter**

For more Information, and other Talks, visit us at
www.faithisaquest.com/media/talks/