

## Small Group Questions

March 29, 2015

John 12:12-33

1. What kinds of things were the people who cried Hosanna looking for Jesus to do? In what ways were there expectations correct? In what ways were they misguided in their expectations?
2. What is the significance of Jesus riding in to Jerusalem on a donkey? How does this connect to the end of the chapter when Jesus declares, "When he looks at me he sees the one who sent me?" (verse 45). In what ways do you want Jesus to ride into your life on a warhorse instead of a donkey?
3. Take a minute and write down five things you want Jesus to "save you from" or "fix" in your own life right now. Of these things, what do you have realistic expectations about? In what ways are your expectations of what you want Jesus to do your own timing and your own solutions? Are there ways in which you could better surrender these things to Jesus?
4. We find in these verses that John, the writer, is communicating that those who wish to follow Jesus into life must first follow Jesus into death. What are the three examples in this passage that speak to this truth? How does the story of Lazarus in chapter 11 speak of this too? Which of the three examples do you connect to the most?
5. We are using this phrase that we need to be willing to die to ourselves. Jesus says in verses 25 and 26 that if we love our life we will lose it, but if we hate our life in this world we will keep it for eternal life. What are some other ways we can summarize these verses? How would you explain this to a child in Sunday School or a neighbor that does not know Jesus at all?
6. What are some of the things in our lives that we need to be willing to die to? What does complete surrender look like? Is it possible that we hold on to more than we are aware of? Can you think of someone in your life that has reflected this truth in a way that has impressed you?
7. What comes to mind as the scariest thing to give up in order to fully surrender to Jesus?
8. Are there any ways in which you commit yourself to "follow Jesus into life by following him into death" this week?