

ACTION STEPS TO PREPARE FOR EASTER

(What spiritual disciplines could you do each day? Ex. Pray, read Scripture, read a devotional, read an Easter passage from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. Read an article about the crucifixion. Attend Thursday evening service.)

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

March 29,2015

Palm Sunday

Crowding Jesus

Pastor Rick Rufenacht



John 12:12 - 22

The Roman Soldiers

1 Corinthians 1:18 - 25

The red carpet crowd.

John 20:29

Matthew 12:38-39

The religious crowd.

Matthew 15:8

2 Corinthians 5:17

The crowd seeking Jesus.

Psalm 14:2

Psalm 27:4

Preparing for Easter

We have been in a season that some call lent. Lent is a time of preparation, looking toward the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Why are you looking forward to Easter? What does it mean to you?

For many, Palm Sunday is the beginning of preparation. Pastor Rick talked about some distinctly different observations of the triumphal entry.

If you had been there that day, what do you think it would have been like? If Jesus were riding into Defiance today, what would that look like? Who would show up? Who wouldn't?

Consider the crowds.

Read Matthew 21:1-7

Pay specific attention to the response of the disciples in verses 6 and 7. What does that tell you about those disciples? How might you have responded to Jesus' request?

Do you think it's ever alright to question God?

Are there specific times that you question God? How do you process those times?

Read John 12:9; John 12:18, and Matthew 12:38-39, and John 4:48

How important to your faith is it for you to experience miracles?

Are there any dangers in looking for miracles? If so, what could they be?

Read Mark 11:11-14 ; 20 - 24

These scriptures recall a miracle and then give us instructions to believe for the miraculous.

What is the appropriate response and attitude toward miracles? What must we guard against when it comes to seeking miracles?

What must we pursue when it comes to miracles?

As it states in John 12:37 - "He had worked a lot of miracles among the people, but they were still not willing to have faith in him"

Seek the Lord

Share with your group a time when you lost something significant and your search to find it.

Read Psalm 14:2 and James 4:7 - 8

In your experience, what has seeking God looked like?

What needs to happen in us and in our lives to be seekers of the Lord?

Would you say it's easy or difficult to seek God? Why or why not?

Consider Psalm 119:9 - 16

What could be the characteristics of a seeker according to these verses?

As you consider preparing for Easter this week, think about how you could be as committed as the disciples. Think about how you could exercise your faith more and be more of a seeker. What would you change in this week to draw closer to Christ?