

April 14, 2019

The Road Less Traveled

Living in the Present Tense

Pastor Rick Rufenacht



John 12:12-16

Live In The _____

Matthew 6:34

Proverbs 21:5

Lamentations 3:23

Live Thinking The _____ of Others

Philippians 2:3

Romans 12:10

2Corinthians 5:16

Live _____ To God

Luke 22:42

Psalm 143:10

Hebrews 13:20-21

Read each of the four gospel accounts are found in
Matthew 21:1-11
Mark 11:1-11
Luke 19:28-44
John 12:12-16

What stands out to you in the different passages. What are the themes that seem to be the same? What themes are different.

Jesus is literally and figuratively climbing towards the gates of Jerusalem.

If you are Jesus, how are you responding internally and emotionally as you ride into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey?

Consider the Crowd.

The things they were shouting are based on scriptures in the Old Testament. Zechariah 9:9 and Psalm 118:26.

To a Jewish person, who knew these prophecies by heart, what would it mean to see Jesus fulfilling them?

How do these prophecies impact you as a believer today? Does Jesus fulfill them today? If so, how?

If it was widely known that Jesus Christ was going to be coming into Defiance for a parade, what do you think the turn out would be. What would the crowd be like? What would the media coverage be like?

Consider the Attitude of Jesus

Jesus knew what was ahead of him. He knew there would be a crowd that would call for His death. He knew there were religious people, who knew the scriptures, that would attack Him and not defend Him.

Read 1 Peter 4:1-2, Philippians 2:1, and 1 John 2:6

One of the themes found in the passion week is Jesus' love for people. In betrayal, agony, abuse and death, Jesus maintained his love for others.

In what ways have you seen Christians exemplify this kind of attitude? What does it take on our part to be an example of Jesus in this way?

Read Philippians 2:3

How difficult is it for us to live that message?

Pastor Rick said we need to live thinking the best of other people.

How would you rate yourself on a scale of 1 - 10, where 10 means you always think the best of others, and 1 means you rarely see the best in others. What things in your experiences have shaped the way you view others?

What Scriptures move you toward valuing people and believing the best in them?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14 - 6:1

In view of this passage, how does passion week shape our thoughts about our real purpose?

Where is our focus this Easter season?

As we come to the end of the Lenten season, how do we prevent the idea of "do's and don't" getting in the way of the greater plan for our lives found in God's Word?

How can you live out the celebration of who Jesus is and his love for other people in tangible ways?