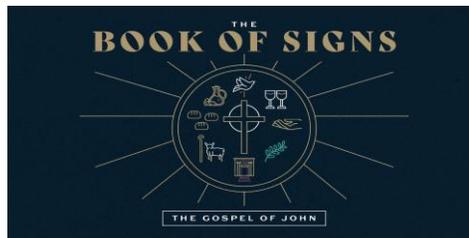


Groups Sermon Based Questions

John: The Book of Signs

April 12 & 13, 2025



Palm Sunday

The sermon is up on the spac.ca website
Monday of each week.

This Passage marks the beginning of Holy week. A journey from public acclaim to betrayal and the cross. It challenges us to move beyond temporary hype and toward a deep, abiding relationship with Jesus. One that lasts beyond the cheers.

Scripture John 12:12-19

Engage

Optional Icebreaker Question

1. **Have you ever gotten caught up in a cultural or social 'craze'? What did it feel like at the time, and why did it fade away for you?**

Study

Context: Just as it was at the feeding of 5000, Jesus' popularity is at an all-time height after word of Him raising Lazarus back to life has spread. As Jesus is heading toward Jerusalem in preparation for Passover, and His crucifixion; the crowds gather, waving palm branches and shouting Hosanna (Psalm 118) as they recognize and hope for Jesus to be their national pride and Messianic hope... but not in the way Jesus intends. Here we see excitement with shallow expectations, a humble king instead of a loud conquering one. A way towards an abiding relationship with their King vs far away cheers.

Read John 12:12-19

1. **Palm branches were a nationalistic symbol of deliverance and victory (Psalm 118:25-26). How might the peoples waving of palms reveal a misunderstanding of who Jesus really was and what He really came to do? Where might the people have been sincere in their celebrating or misguided?**
2. **Have you ever misunderstood Jesus, expecting Him to be or do something that isn't aligned with who He is or does? What was that journey or experience like?**
3. **Picture yourself in the craze, excitement, and possible tension of this whole scene of Jesus entering into Jerusalem. What do you think was going through the disciples minds as they watched all of this unfold?**

Traditionally, a new leader would enter in on a white/war horse as they are welcomed and coronated by the crowds. Instead, Jesus decides to enter in on a donkey.

4. **What does this tell you about what kind of King Jesus is?**
5. **How does this challenge the way we sometimes expect Jesus to work OR how we expect leaders and kings to be?**

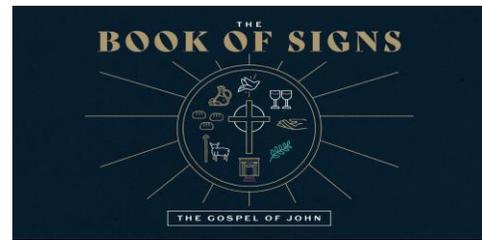
Palms branches, once vibrant, quickly dry out when detached from the source.

6. **In what ways might our own spiritual life reflect that same cycle of hype and burnout?**
7. **What is Jesus calling us to in John 15:4? How is this different from what the large crowds are doing at Jesus' entry into Jerusalem?**

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Many in the crowds shouted praise and by the end of the week they were silent or calling for Jesus' death.

8. **Why is it often easier to follow Jesus when its popular or convenient?**
9. **What difference do you see between abiding in Jesus vs following Jesus because it was the norm, safe, or what you grew up in (possible bubble)?**

Reflection and Prayer

Where might Jesus be inviting you to abide in Him this week? What difficult thing is He inviting you to lay down instead of the easy proverbial palm branches?

Prayer and Care

Take note of a prayer request for each member in your group.

You can request prayer any time at spac.ca/prayerrequest

We have a Care Ministry and pastoral team at Sherwood Park Alliance to walk alongside people through life's challenges. Should anyone in your group experience a significant illness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, etc. and they've given you permission to share, please contact the church office 780-467-8404.

Pastor on call (after hours): 780-467-8404 and follow prompts.