

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

As preached on Sunday, March 29th

Read: John 12:12-19

1. As this week's narrative begins, Jesus is swamped by an adoring crowd as he makes the 2 mile trip from Bethany to Jerusalem. The atmosphere must have been simply "electric"! Have you ever been in a crowd like that? What was it like?
2. Why is this crowd so excited to see Jesus?
3. The crowd is chanting words from Psalm 118. What words are those and why are they significant? Is that all they were chanting?
4. The crowd is also waving palm branches as Jesus makes his procession into Jerusalem. Why? Is there any significance connected to palm branches in 1st Century Israel?
5. It has been suggested that this crowd is attempting to co-opt Jesus. If so, what is their agenda for Jesus? What is his own agenda? Can they both be accomplished?
6. In what ways are we tempted to co-opt Jesus? Can you think of a time when you've used the name of Jesus or a passage of scripture to advance your own personal agenda?
7. In what ways has the church today attempted to co-opt Jesus? How has it impacted unbelieving people around us? What can we do to guard ourselves against this temptation so that we are free to fully follow Jesus' lead?
8. In v.19 it appears that the Pharisees have become unwitting prophets. How has the prophecy come to pass? How can we participate in its continuing fulfillment?