



Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Matthew 21:1-11; Zechariah 9:9-11

Introduction: In this passage Jesus reaches the city of Jerusalem in what will be the final week of his earthly ministry. Jesus instructs his disciples to obtain a colt for him to ride. As Jesus enters the city he is met by a crowd which hails him as the messianic King. Yet in the midst of their excitement the crowd reveals that their expectations have shaped by a rival story.



Into the Word

Read Zechariah 9:9-11. How is this prophecy fulfilled by Jesus? How does this prophecy in context help explain the tension of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem?

Consider verses 8-11. What do the actions and words of the crowd reveal about their expectations of Jesus? Why did they have these expectations?

Note: Palm branches do not symbolize a call to peace but political revolution.

Consider Zechariah 9:11. How would you explain the purpose of Jesus' earthly ministry based on this passage?

Consider: Matthew 26:26-28



Into the Heart

Paul David Tripp writes, "It is possible for you to be convinced that you are living for kingdom of God when you are in fact living for yourself." Do you agree? What are signs that you might be living for yourself and not for God?

Note: The Costume Kingdom

Where might the kingdom of self be the most fortified in our lives?

Consider: James 4:3-6



Into the World

One of the most influential stories in our culture is expressive individualism. Trevin Wax describes expressive individualism as the belief that, "the purpose of life is to find one's deepest self and then express that to the world, forging that identity in ways that counter whatever family, friends, political affiliations, previous generations, or religious authorities might say." How do you see this rival story influencing Christians today?

How might this rival story shape people's expectations of Jesus?

How can we protect ourselves from being led astray by this rival story?