

EASTER AT *Community* BIBLE CHURCH

WHOLE HEART

Community Bible Church

Sermon Discussion Questions: **Apr 2, 2023**

Pastor Ed Newton

Title: A Fork in the Road

Text: Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-40, John 12:12-19

Target: The triumphant entry of Jesus is based upon His willingness to pick the road of suffering instead of popularity.

Question #1: What plans or traditions do you have with your family for Easter? What are you looking forward to most this year?

I. The Plan in Perspective: **JESUS IS ALL KNOWING**

A. Demonstrated Divinity: *“Go into a village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her.”* (Matthew 21:2)

B. Declared Authority: *“The Lord needs them, and he will send them at once.”* (Matthew 21:3)

Question #2: *Why did Jesus’ divinity and authority give His followers confidence to obey and trust his commands? Should we have the same confidence in Jesus’ plan for our life? Why can it be difficult to maintain this confidence at times in our life?*

II. The Promise in the Prophecy: **JESUS IS KING**

A. The Donkey: *“And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,”* (John 12:14)

B. The Meaning: *“Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”* (John 12:15/Zechariah 9:9)

1. **Just or Righteous**
2. **Bringing Salvation**
3. **Humble and Lowly**

Question #3: Just as this prophecy was given to God’s people to look forward to, **Hebrews 9:28** gives followers of Jesus a prophecy of his second coming. “So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.” *What does it look like to eagerly wait for Jesus’ second coming in our day-to-day lives?* (Optional: continue the conversation on Jesus’ second coming with the Additional Resources section below)

III. The Posture of Praise: JESUS IS SALVATION

- A. **Cast their Cloaks:** *“And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road,”* (Mark. 11:7-8a)
- B. **Waved Palm Branches:** *“.and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields.”* (Mark. 11:8b)
- C. **Shouted in Belief:** *“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”* (Mark 11:9-10)

Question #4: As someone develops a complete view of who Jesus truly is, their response is deeper praise, trust, and surrender. It's possible to claim Jesus as our King and Savior while still wanting to control specific areas of our life. *Are there any areas in your life that you still need to surrender control of to Jesus? What steps will you take to practically do that this week?*

IV. The Pathway of Popularity (Rejected): JESUS CHOSE THE CROSS.

- A. **Sentiment Shared:** *“the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”* (Mt 21:10-11)
- B. **Sign Performed:** *“The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.”* (John 12:18) *Lazarus raised from the dead
- C. **Stones won't be Silent:** *“And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”* (Luke 19:39-40)

Takeaway: The fork in the road is not to consider what road you are on, but what road Jesus is on and if you will join Him. **John 12:19:** *“So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”*

Question #5: In choosing the cross, Jesus rejected the path of popularity in favor of the more important mission at hand. This level of sacrifice and obedience to God is not popular. *What things has God asked us to do that are unpopular in society? How can we stay faithful in following Jesus and free from the influence of an unbelieving culture?*

Additional Resources: Got Questions Video & Article

Study and discuss the details of Jesus' second coming by scanning the QR code below or visiting **GotQuestions.org** and searching for “What is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ?”

