

Catechism Lesson for Adults and Teens

Palm Sunday

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Read the Gospel Passage AND the verses before it of this Sunday:

John 12:1-18

Contextual Background:

-Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, wherein Jesus entered into the Holy City and was well received, and in a short period of time would have public opinion change on Him so quickly

Discussion Questions:

1. If you had a year's wage to spend on friends, which would you choose?
 - a. A big party
 - b. A glamorous trip for a few
 - c. One giant gift for one person

2. When have you felt the following...
 - a. Criticized for something you spent a lot of money on
 - b. Disappointed for something someone else spend a lot of money on
 - c. Generous towards God

3. How do you think the people in Jerusalem, who had heard so much about Jesus and looked forward to meeting the Messiah, expected Him to ride in on?
 - a. A War Horse or Chariot, coming to liberate/take over the city
 - b. An exotic and elaborately dressed elephant, like Prince Ali from Aladdin
 - c. A camel like a wise man or rich merchant
 - d. A portable bed/couch kind of like Pharaohs and Ancient Emperors
 - e. Exactly as he arrived: on a humble donkey/colt

4. If you were a celebrity at that time, entering into Jerusalem with an eager crowd awaiting you, how might you enter?
 - a. Make sure there are plenty of fireworks and palm branches to make it spectacular
 - b. Rile up the crowd to get them wild with cheers
 - c. Ask the crowd to keep the noise level down
 - d. Look for a secret entrance to the city to avoid the crowd entirely
 - e. Remain calm and maybe even serious with your mind focused on the purpose of coming to the city

5. When have you felt overwhelmingly welcomed or celebrated and in a short amount of time slandered, mistreated, or insulted?

6. The people took palm branches and their coats to carpet the city road and lined up to greet Jesus. What are some things you can do to welcome Jesus into your heart and mind as we enter into Holy Week?

7. The people were at first overwhelmed and overjoyed to see Jesus.
 - a. What helps you stay receptive to Jesus?
 - b. When has it been hard to praise God?
 - c. What might be some things we can do or needed so that we do not end up like the crowd that loses faith and gets disappointed in Jesus?