**Small Group Study Guide**

Here Comes the King! |

From Sunday April 5, 2020

**Appetizer:**

**Question:** Does anyone like parades? Has anyone been in a parade? What’s the best thing about a parade?

**A couple questions from the passage:**

Read Matthew 21:1-11: **What stands out to you in the passage?** Put yourself in the place of the crowd. What are you saying? Why? What are you seeing? What does this mean to you?

**Main Course:**

The crowd at the triumphal entry obviously had some expectations of Jesus. Some may have been looking simply for an excuse for a party. Others were in the midst of religious fervor and patriotism. And others were genuinely hoping and praying that their lot and life could be genuinely changed by the appearance of this new king of the Jews.

But it’s safe to say that their assumptions of what a king was and what they needed a king to do were not met in Jesus, a king who came, not to be served, but to serve. Not to save the Jews from the Romans but to save humanity from their sin. Not to be lifted up onto a throne, but lifted up on a cross.

**Question:** We also have expectations of “the king.” What are some of the expectations we place on God?

**Question:** Unmet expectations often lead to disappointment. Have you ever been disappointed with God? Why? What expectations did you place on him that he didn’t fulfill?

Pastor Jeff talked about it being okay to have disappointments, even if our expectations of God were not appropriate. He used the example of what is called a lament. A lament is a prayer or song that speaks directly to God about disappointment.

**Have some people look up the following Psalms of Lament and read them out to the group:**

Psalm 60

Psalm 44

Psalm 74

**What do you notice about these Psalms?**

**Dessert:**

**Challenge:**

When we put ourselves in the place of the crowd, Palm Sunday shows us that (1) we need to examine our expectations and what we think is true of God and (2) We need to be on the look out for seeing God in unexpected places.

**Brainstorm with the group:**

What are ways that we see God moving today, both inside and outside of the church?

What are ways that we can join him in the unexpected ways he is moving?

**Pray this prayer out loud with the group:** Lord, let us be a part of the unexpected ways you are moving! Surprise us, and jolt us, and empower us… and leave us forever changed. Amen.