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Nurturing our Faith

Lent Bible Study Group

2022

Jesus generous under pressure



4th April 2022 at 11 a.m.
Fleet URC & Beacon
Hill URC

Jesus generous under pressure
Holy Habit focus on gladness, generosity & worship

We come together in a time of song, prayer and hearing a reading from the Gospel of Luke – Luke 19: 28 – 39:

- As we read the passage identify words or phrases that stand out to you:

²⁸After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop."

- What words or phrases did you notice?
- What's different in Luke's account to the other Gospels' narratives? John 12: 12 – 16; Matthew 21: 1 -11; Mark 11: 1 – 11 (see separate sheet for these)
- How does this reading speak of worship?

This story is vibrant and alive with gladness and generosity. The scene is euphoric, with the people welcoming Jesus with joy and expectation. By contrast, the religious leaders grumble and complain.

The dark clouds that will gather through Holy Week are already beginning to form.

Luke 18:31 Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. 32 For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. 33 After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again."

- what does this tell us?

Love has been described as grace under pressure. On several occasions in Holy Week, this grace is at work in Jesus, as he is generous toward others.

Questions for whole-group conversation:

1. In whom have you seen grace under pressure?
2. The Pharisees complain about exuberant worship. How generous are we in accepting worship styles of others?

Respond - A prayer to close:

Lord, as we journey with you into Holy Week, may our devotion not dissipate. When the hosannas fade and the pressures mount, help us to remain faithful, we pray. Amen.

Take home ideas

On Sunday you will receive a Palm Cross at church. If you have a spare cross, think about giving it as a gift to someone you know who is under pressure for whatever reason to keep by their side in Holy week.