

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Palm Sunday

Jesus is our Savior, Sanctifier, and Coming King

Week of March 28, 2021 A.D.

What does it mean to be a Christian? Regardless of the many answers which you may receive in response to that question, when you get down to the essentials, the heart of the matter is a matter of the heart. Let's talk about that in this week's lesson.

Read Matthew 21:6 – 11

1. "Hosanna" is a Hebrew expression of praise which means "save". In your opinion, (a) what did the crowds have in mind as they reacted to Jesus entering Jerusalem? (b) what did the crowds expect Jesus to do? and (c) who did they think Jesus was? Please explain the reasons for your opinion.
2. Did the crowds know that Jesus entered Jerusalem for the pre-determined purpose of dying on a cross to pay the penalty for the sin of all mankind? If so, how did they know? If not, why did they not know? Do you think that the crowds would have had the same reaction if they knew that Jesus came to town to die as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world? Please explain your answers.
3. Please describe the level and the sense of excitement for the celebration of Palm Sunday and Resurrection Sunday which is currently being expressed by: (a) all of the people in America; (b) all of the self-avowed Christians in America; and (c) all of the people in America who will attend a church worship service on each of those days? Please (a) explain the reasons for each of your answers and (b) offer your opinion on how you believe each of those days should be celebrated and why.
4. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Both the daily goal and the life-time goal of every Christian is to know Christ, to love Christ, and to become more like Christ."

Read Ephesians 5:1 – 2

5. Do children often imitate their parents? If so, why? Are all Christians children of God? Is Jesus God? Does God expect every Christian to imitate Christ? Does God empower and enable every Christian to imitate Christ? If so, how? Describe "the life of love" which God expects of and from every Christian. Please explain your answers.

Read Ephesians 5:25 and 4:2 – 6; 15-16

6. Does Jesus love "the church"? Who or what is "the church"? Does Jesus expect believers to worship together each week, study the Bible together, and show acts of kindness and love to each other? Please explain your answers.

Read Romans 12:9 – 13

7. Should a Christian ever be indifferent about (a) the presence of evil in the world and/or (b) doing all that we can do to meet the spiritual, physical, and material needs of others? If so, why? If not, why not?

Read John 5:41 – 44

8. Was Jesus indifferent about the praise of others? Why or why not? Does Jesus expect us to be indifferent about the praise of others? Why or why not? Please explain your answer.

Read Luke 12:13 – 15

9. Was Jesus unconcerned about getting rich? Why or why not? Does Jesus expect us to be unconcerned about getting rich? Why or why not? Please explain your answers.

Read Matthew 18:1 – 6

10. Does Jesus expect us to care about children? If so, why? If so, in your opinion, what does Jesus expect us to do about: (a) divorce, (b) taking our children to church each week, (c) teaching our children to study the Bible and to pray, and (d) training our children to know, love, and serve Jesus? Please give the reasons for your answers.

Read Matthew 23:37 – 39

11. Was Jesus passionate about telling people that there is a Heaven to gain and a hell to avoid? Can any people group or nation avoid physical and spiritual destruction if they do not embrace Jesus as the Savior of the world? Will Jesus judge all nations and every individual? (See Matthew 25:31 – 33) Please explain your answers.

Read Matthew 25:44 – 46

12. Does Jesus expect us to be passionately involved in the expansion of His kingdom and in the ministry of His church on earth? Does Jesus expect us to imitate Him and to strive to become as much like Him as may be humanly possible? Does Jesus expect us to feel indifferent about the things of this world and to be fully devoted to Him? Please explain your answers.

Consider: If Jesus were to ride into New York City (or your home town) on a donkey, would anybody care? If Jesus were to be crucified today and rise again from the dead on the third day, would anybody care? Dear Jesus, help us to care about what you care about and to be indifferent about everything else. Help us to overcome our unbelief. "You think about that." Amen.