



PALM SUNDAY: THE RETURN OF THE KING

Palm Sunday starts Holy Week, the most sacred week of the year for Christians. We follow Jesus' last days before he was crucified. It begins with His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, with palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna," calling Jesus King. Palm Sunday mixes joy with sadness, the excitement of Jesus' arrival hints at his upcoming death and ultimately how he conquered it.

In our Gospel readings, we realize how easily feelings can change, as some people who welcomed him into the holy city would later call for his crucifixion. Yet, we're also reminded of Jesus' humility. When Jesus Christ entered the holy city to usher in a new Kingdom of God, it was unlike any kingdom anyone had ever seen before. Many expected a triumphant military leader but found a man riding on a donkey. Many were hoping for a political leader to overthrow a corrupt Roman government but discovered Jesus talking about another Kingdom "Not of this world." He chose peace and service over power, teaching us about true leadership and God's kingdom.

Read: Matthew 21:1-11 & 27:1-54

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How does the Kingdom of God differ from the kingdoms of this world?

As you approach Good Friday, what is in your life that you want to leave behind?

What caused the early church to be so much more forgiving, generous, & welcoming compared to their pagan neighbors?

What do you think it means to discover strength through weakness?

Have there been hardships in your life that led to somewhere greater?

