

Belmont Exeter House Group Notes

w/c 2nd April 2023

Come and See – Palm Sunday – Worship the King

We're working our way through the gospel of John in our Sunday morning services. Our home group studies will pick up the topic from the Sunday before the meeting. This means we won't cover the whole of the Gospel of John in these outlines. Feel free to adapt this content, or to study other passages.

John wrote his gospel so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20 v 30&31). As we study John together, keep that purpose in mind and ask, "How does this passage help me believe that Jesus is the Messiah and so live life to the full (eternal life)?"

This study is for the passage from the morning service on 2nd April. If people aren't able to be at the service then please encourage them to catch up online via YouTube or the talks page on the Belmont Exeter website.

This outline is the bare bones of the study: more thought needs to be given to the way you start and finish the evening, use (or don't use) the questions themselves, and think about the way this passage may affect your own group members. Think about the big ideas and how to apply them to everyday life. Here are three book titles you may find helpful to have available for study leaders through the series.

John for Everyone by Tom Wright, pub. SPCK, (short 'daily' chapters on each section)
The Message of John by Bruce Milne, pub. IVP (more in depth analysis and explanation)
John for You by Josh Moody, pub. Goodbook Co (sermon style & with focus on application)

BIG IDEA: Jesus is a king like no other. We're called to reflect Him in our lives.

WAY IN: What is first thing that fills your mind as you start the day? How do you decide what to do first?

READ: John 12:1 - 19

DIG IN

1. What part of the text or sermon had the greatest impact on you? Did you learn anything new about Jesus? The Bible? God? *This is an open question to see if there are particular themes to explore which are on the minds of the group.*
2. People have very different responses to Jesus, trace out the various characters and agendas in the passage. Maybe remind yourself of some back story to Mary, Martha, Judas, Lazarus.
3. What do some of the actions in the passage point us towards? Anointing? The palm branches? The donkey? The songs (see Psalm 118 v 25 – 29)

LIVE IT OUT

1. This is one of those bible passages that calls out to us 'where are you in this picture?' How would you answer?
2. Read **1 Timothy 6.12-16**. How does the kingship of Jesus change the priorities of our lives? How does it free us?
3. *"We've lost the joy and power that makes real disciples and we've become consumers of religion and not disciples of Jesus Christ."*
John Sentamu at his induction as Archbishop of York, 2005.
What inaccurate expectations have you put on Jesus the king? How do those expectations limit our praise and joy?
4. Are there kings and kingdoms you can identify who demand our service? What things can / do we do to keep Jesus our priority? How could you establish a habit of recognizing Jesus as King in each situation you find yourself?

PRAYER

People have very different responses to Jesus. A large part of this response comes from what we value in this life.

Our frontline is the place where we spend most of your waking time as a disciples of Jesus. Is there an aspect of this situation where you'd like to see the priority of Jesus more clearly in your actions, words and attitudes?

Psalm 67 is a psalm of praise to God the king, who rules justly. Praise Jesus for being a merciful king. Read this psalm together to close this study time in praise and worship to the Lord Jesus.