

Dig Deeper @Home – “Broken Restored”

Complement to sermon on April 9, 2017 – “The Coming Hope”

MEMORIZE – Lamentations 3: 21-23

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

READ - John 12:12-36

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What is this passage revealing about God and what is it revealing about us as humans?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life? What will that look like?
3. **Read John 12:12-19.** What words and actions in these verses point to Jesus as Messiah and the coming King? What words and actions point to Jesus as a different kind of King, a servant King?
4. Look more closely at the prophecy (vs. 15) from Zechariah 9:9-13. What qualities will Zion’s king possess? How does the prophet describe the Messiah’s coming? How will the people respond? On what basis will restoration be given to the prisoners or exiles?
5. As you look at the reaction of the crowd to Jesus entry into Jerusalem, what is behind their enthusiasm? What miraculous event took place prior to this that may have stirred their passion? (see John 11:38-44). How is our trust in God at times affected by events that happen?
6. **Read John 12:20-26.** In Jesus’ parable (v. 24), who is the “kernel of wheat”? How is this related to the Greek’s request?(v. 21) What is he calling his disciples to do in verses 25-26? What promise do they receive? Where is Jesus calling you to die so that you might find life? What do we tend to hold on to rather than follow Jesus?
7. **Read John 12:27-36.** In verses 27-32, what is about to happen “now”? How does this affect Jesus? Why did the crowd deny the reality of Jesus’ future death (vs. 32-34) (cf. Isaiah 9:7; Psalm 110:4). As followers of Jesus, we are called to be “light bearers.” (vv 35-37) Where is God calling you to shine the light? How can this group pray for you as you shine the light of Jesus?

Bottom Line – Summarize John 12 in your own words.

Experiential

Sometimes activities help us to understand and process biblical truths. The ones below are a suggestion for how to experience the truths of John 12.

Planting Seeds

Gather some seeds and some soil and invite your children to help you plant some vegetable or flower seeds. When you plant a seed, the seed itself dies but during the process it sends out roots which always grow down and spread out. (Read again John 12:24.) The roots grow first and never stop growing. Then, when the roots are established, the plant will start to grow (it always grows up) and begins to sprout leaves. The plant grows toward the light since too much darkness will cause it to die and it will position its leaves so each one receives light. Plant the seeds and then watch them grow over the next few weeks.

Pop Corn

Take some pop corn kernels and see how hard and inedible they are in that form. Then put a bag of microwaveable popcorn in the microwave and after it finishes popping see the difference when “heat” is applied to the kernels of popcorn. Talk about the meaning of John 12:24 in relation to the kernels of popcorn. Share experiences of how you have seen God work in “hard” places in your life.

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use this or any song you might want to sing)

Hosanna in the highest - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrgFWUJ-B8s>

This song directs our minds and hearts to the love and mercy of the King of Kings coming to be with us.

I stand amazed in the presence - Mennonite Hymn #540

A song of praise to Jesus, the King, who willingly gave His life and suffered and died for our sins.

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

As you go, may you experience and receive the never-ending steadfast love of the LORD to fully comfort you and to enable you to pass on His never-ending steadfast love to those around you.