



Study Guide

Palm Sunday and Pollyanna
Hebrews 12:2 and Philippians 4:4-9

Next week: *Easter*

Scripture References

Study Guide

Scripture

1. Read Hebrews 12:2 and Philippians 4:4-9
2. Compare the sentiment in these two texts to the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday in Matthew 21:1-11
3. Do the themes or messages in Hebrews and Philippians reflect or contrast with the attitude of the crowd around Jesus?
4. How might those Christians have thought about the reality of Jesus' joy on Palm Sunday and sacrifice on Good Friday?
5. How might it have been different than the way we think about it today?

Sermon

Bruce said:

"We can rejoice when life is pretty good. But how do we rejoice when life is tough and circumstances are difficult? Is there a way we can follow Jesus' example as he endured the cross because of the "joy set before him" (Hebrews 12:2)? How do we choose a positive attitude even in the midst of our sorrows and struggles? This, then, is the perfect weekend to ask the question, will we focus on the sorrows or the joys? It is our choice."

1. What is the closest you've ever been to a celebrity? What did you do or say? Was it a good experience or a bad experience?
2. Near the end of his life, Jesus was a celebrity of sorts. Why do you think this was?
3. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the crowd treated him like a king. In your opinion, what did they expect him to do next?

4. Undoubtedly, many people were disappointed when Jesus didn't fulfill their expectations. Have you ever known someone who was disappointed when God didn't meet their expectations?
5. How does Bruce's message and the texts of his sermon inform our expectations of Jesus and either our joy or disappointment in what occurs in our lives?
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Life Application

How can you embrace both the anticipation of Palm Sunday and the reality that things don't always work out the way we wish?

Prayer

Lord, when we are embraced in celebration and when we are shut out, dismissed, or demeaned, let us remember that you have gone before us and are with us, In Jesus name, amen.