

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Hosanna! John 12:12-16

Week of April 5, 2020
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

The famous cry of Palm Sunday is “Hosanna!” While the meaning of this ancient term is unknown to most, we cannot afford to be ignorant of it. The meaning of “Hosanna!” is absolutely profound and contains the path to eternal salvation. We also discovered that the pivotal moment of the first Palm Sunday, known as the “triumphal entry,” teaches us precisely how we must connect with Jesus to be saved.

Kicking it off: Name one of your preferred expressions of diversion/fun in this trying time of quarantine.

Discussion:

1. Reread *John 12:12-13* The great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him.

What made Jesus so popular back then? Demographics indicate that, while not necessarily Christians, more than 50% of the world’s population is a fan of Jesus. What makes Jesus so popular today?

2. Reread *John 12:13* They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!”

The word “Hosanna” originally meant “Lord, save us!” What were most of those at the “triumphal entry” looking to be saved from?

3. Why is it hard for many to admit their need of a Savior?

4. Reread the rest of *John 12:13* They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel.”

By picking up and waving a palm branch they were acknowledging Jesus as “king of Israel.” Why is it so important to God that we acknowledge Jesus as king in our lives?

5. Reread the description of the huge crowd in heaven found in *Revelation 7:9-10* They were holding palm branches in their hands and crying out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God!”

Why does God want the Palm Sunday event to reoccur in heaven?

6. What is harder, trusting in Jesus as “Lord” or trusting Him as “Savior? Why?

7. Imagine you are visiting a friend in the final days of their earthly life. Upon expressing your concern about their readiness to face eternity, they seek to put you at ease by saying, “Don’t worry about me, I’m for Jesus.” How would you further direct this conversation?

Wrapping It Up: Pray that God would use you to help others realize their need to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.