

Palm Sunday/Baptism

Study Questions

Matthew 21:7-16; Romans 6:3-4

Warm-up

1) What's do you find particularly memorable about being at a baptism (whether it's from this past Sunday, or some other time)? Why is it so memorable?

A little deeper

2) [Matthew 21:7-11] When Jesus entered Jerusalem, many treated Him like a conquering king, placing their cloaks and palms on the path in front of Him. Some thought he was going to free them from Roman occupation and usher in a new era that would renew pride in their country and heritage again. **How do you think modern non-Christians see Jesus? What do you think attracts them to Jesus, and what do you think pushes them away?**

3) [Matthew 21:12-16] Jesus drove some people out of the temple and welcomed and served others. **What sorts of emotions did Jesus stir up in people that day in the temple? What do these emotions say about the hearts of the different people who encountered Jesus that day (especially the blind and lame, the children, and the chief priests and teachers)?**

4) [Romans 6:3-4] In the week that followed Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, He was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. Like a wedding ring signifies the joining together of two who are married, baptism signifies the joining together of the believer with Jesus in His death and resurrection. **Whenever someone makes a commitment such as marriage or turning over their life to Jesus, there is a cost—what are some examples of that cost?**

Such commitments are also made with a mutual promise and with hope—what are examples of these? How do they help us keep our commitment when the costs are coming due?

Bringing it home

5) If you have been baptized, has your relationship with God gone the way you expected? If you're going through a difficult time now, what is helping you through? If you're being blessed beyond your expectations, how have you been showing your gratitude?

If you have not been baptized, is there something keeping you from making that commitment?

Reflection & Prayer

6) Praise God, remembering His faithfulness and bountiful forgiveness. Renew your commitment to Him while recognizing your daily dependence upon Him.