



EASTER

REFLECTIONS 2020

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Monday – The Triumphal Entry

If you were asked to describe Jesus in a sentence I wonder what you would say or write. The identity of Jesus is one of the crucial questions of our lives. There are so many views and opinions about Jesus. Some say he was a good teacher, a miracle worker, a confidence trickster. Others talk about his character being meek and mild and others just don't care or see any relevance in a guy who lived 2000 years ago. Our belief that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, the anointed one, God incarnate (God with us) is the first stepping stone of a life of faith. That he is alive today and his Spirit lives in us and we live with him is one of the most exciting and exhilarating truths of our Christian faith. 2000 years ago the identity of Jesus was a contentious issue. Who is this Jesus? Is he a teacher, a miracle worker or is he the messiah? As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey it must have felt that the crowd had decided. With palm branches being raised and shouts of Hosanna it seemed that the crowd had decided that he was the messiah, the chosen one of God. Yet, such jubilant celebrations were short lived with some already plotting to kill him. The crowd was fickle. Having cheered him in as a king into a Jerusalem, another crowd would be cheering to have Jesus crucified. Spend some time thinking about the journey of Jesus. Imagine you are one of the crowd: what do you witness? What do you think about Jesus? How would he have felt as the cheers turn to jeers? What does Jesus mean to you?

Story - John 12:12-19

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³They 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!”

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt.”

¹⁶At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

¹⁷Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you that you did not waver from your Father's will and remained steadfast in your obedience, even to death, even death on a cross. Lord Jesus, please help me on my journey of faith. Help my heart be obedient to the call you have on my life. Forgive me when I am fickle in my reaction to the promptings of your Holy Spirit. Help me to live in the likeness of your son Jesus and may His Spirit dwell richly in me that I may live this life for your glory - Amen