

GOD'S JUST SERVANT

LESSON SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 21

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 21:1-2, 6-8, 12-17

*Key Verse: The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them.
Matthew 21:6*

Matthew 21:1-2, 6-8, 12-17 (NRSV)

Matthew 21:1-2

1 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,

2 saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me."

6-8

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;

7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

12-17

12 Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of

the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

13 He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a den of robbers."

14 The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them.

15 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry

16 and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself'?"

17 He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Cloak** – An outer garment such as a cape or coat.
- **Hosanna** – A shout of praise and adoration to God, meaning, “Please save.”
- **Scribes** – Teachers of the Jewish tradition and law.

GETTING READY!!!

Do you like to follow directions? Following directions is important, because directions usually guide us to reach the end or a goal. In today’s passage, Jesus tells his disciples to follow some specific instructions. Though the disciples may not have understood why Jesus was giving them certain directions, they trusted Jesus and completed the tasks at hand.

Like the disciples, we too are called to follow Jesus and Jesus’ instructions. We are called to be God’s servants and listen to God’s voice. When God gives us directions, God never steers us wrong. We can fully rely on and trust God. Name a person in your life that you trust. Do they have any directions they ask you to follow? In order to do what is just in the community and beyond, we are called to do good and turn from evil (repent). Faithful living means faithfully following Jesus’ actions by treating others fairly. Jesus gave us the best example, by how Jesus lived his life.

In today’s story, we can read about the preparations for Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, on what we now call Palm Sunday. The directions that Jesus gave his disciples were

important for them to follow, in order to fulfill the prophecy that had been told to the people. When we are faithfully doing what God calls us to do, we impact others around us. Every day we should strive to follow Jesus in all we do.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Do you know what today is? Today we celebrate Palm Sunday. This is the time we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Two disciples were instructed by Jesus to obtain a donkey and colt and bring them to Jesus. The disciples followed Jesus' directions and were able to see the fruit of their labor.

Take out a sheet of paper and draw a picture of Jesus' triumphant entry as it is read by the teacher. Take a few moments to also imagine the sounds, sights, and smells you might have experienced if you were in those biblical times. When the reading of the scripture is complete, share your drawing with the class.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Have you ever played the game *Simon Says*? What are the rules of the game? For a few moments at the direction of the teacher, play the game, *Simon Says*. After the completion of the game, describe the following: what was your favorite instruction? Did you like to follow or be the leader? What is your favorite part of playing the game *Simon Says*?

Part of being an excellent leader is to be an awesome

follower. When we follow the guidance of God, we place all our trust and faith in God’s directions. Do you have a role model? Why are they your role model? Jesus is the ultimate role model! Jesus showed respect to everyone Jesus encountered and gave us a blueprint to follow. What is one way that you follow Jesus? Jesus, the promised Messiah, not only gave hope and kindness, but also embodied what it meant to live justice in action.

When you do what is right and just, you show respect and honor to God by living out your faith. What are some ways you can help others to live out their faith? We are called to be positive examples in a world filled with darkness. Being a servant of God means living our lives being a light to the world. This Palm Sunday, as we celebrate with the Church Universal, let your shouts of “Hosanna” ring loudly as we all proclaim, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”

REMIX!!!

Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem was a following of God’s plan from the very beginning. As people threw their cloaks on the ground in honor and respect for their Messiah and king, some doubted who Jesus was! When Jesus got to the temple after the parade, Jesus showed justice in action by healing the sick and blind. Though some doubted and did not understand, Jesus continued to do the work God had called Jesus to do.

This week, look for ways that *you* can be “God’s Just Servant.” It may be by holding the door open for a stranger, or even simply giving a smile. Doing what is just is not a one- time event. Justice is something that we must participate in daily. As a testament of

the promise you are making today to follow where God leads you, sing one verse of “I Surrender All” before dismissing.

QUESTIONS

1. What is Palm Sunday?
2. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a fancy horse with elegant garments. (True or False)
3. Name one way you can follow directions this week.

PRAISE GOD!!!

Let’s repeat together the following scripture: “Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” This is the shout of the people of Jesus’ time when Jesus was entering Jerusalem. How would you have felt if you saw Jesus, the king, coming into town riding on a donkey? Many who were there were so excited that they spread their cloaks on the road, and cut palm branches from the trees to wave in celebration.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for keeping your promises. Thank you for being faithful to us every day. Thank you for giving us your son, Jesus, who teaches us how to be leaders of justice and hope. Help us to follow your ways and choose to do what is right. Amen.