

Palm Sunday → Which Way?

Discussion Guide

Big Picture

Power is often seen as corruptive because of the ways it has been abused. But in the kingdom of God, it is potential for service. Jesus, to whom was given all power and all authority, became the servant of all - and that is an attitude and perspective He desires for each of us.

Discussion Questions

1. How did Jesus show his power? How was it different than what the Jews and Romans were used to?
2. How have you seen power used to serve others?
3. God has given everyone an area of influence. How can you serve others in yours?
4. Who can you give more power to knowing yours will not diminish any less?
5. What does God want you to do with what you've just heard?

Sermon Notes

Matthew 21:1-11, "As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.' This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: 'Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!' When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?' The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.'"

The way of Jesus is one of sacrifice, service, and humility
The way of Herod was one of force, vanity, and control

Mark 8:15, "Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod."

Jesus showed humanity what to do with power
Jesus used his power to serve

Mark 10:42-43, "Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,'"

The way of Herod is about protecting power at all costs. The way of Jesus is about serving others at every turn.

What authority do you have that can be used to benefit others?

Jesus laid his power down for the good of others

Philippians 2:6-7, “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

“The beginning and the end of all Christian leadership is to give your life for others.” - Henri Nouwen

How can you bypass things you might have a right to for the good of others?

Jesus gave power to others

What would it look like to empower instead of hoard?