

# Personified: Meeting Jesus on the Way to the Cross

Week 2 – February 21, 2021

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11 and Zechariah 9:9-10

*Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!*

**Share:** Would you rather make people laugh or make people think? Why?

**Read Mark 11:1-11 and Zechariah 9:9-10 together:** Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

## **Discuss the following context:**

Often we emphasize the divinity of Jesus (i.e. Son of God, Messiah, Savior, Christ, Immanuel), but this series examines the humanity of Jesus and how it relates with so many of our own experiences. In looking at real and human moments of Jesus' life, we see that even Jesus faced pressure in different forms and intensities throughout His entire life, including disappointing people. Jesus was expected to be something He was not.

Sometimes our desire to please people drives us to do irrational things we wouldn't otherwise do. There was one moment in Jesus' life where if He had succumb to people pleasing and the fear of disappointing people it would have derailed Him from His life's purpose. This moment is Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as King.

## **Share your thoughts about following questions:**

1. Many people struggle with peer pressure or living up to the expectations of others. Think about a time when you did something out of character because you wanted to fit in or please those around you. Share with the group.
2. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the colt (a donkey that had not been ridden by anyone) is an important part of the moment to help us understand the expectations the people had of Jesus (Mark 11:1-11). This donkey was fulfillment to the scripture that all the Jewish people would have known (Zechariah 9:9-10).
  - a. In the ancient world, horses were symbols of war and donkeys were symbols of peace, often used to enact treaties. Do you think the donkey represents the characteristics of the ideal king? Why or why not?
  - b. Many people believed Jesus was the long awaited Messiah. His entry into Jerusalem excited them. What type of King did the Jewish people want?
  - c. Can you see the tension? What the people needed was not the same thing as what the people wanted. How does Jesus' purpose differ from the expectations of the people?
3. When you live your life with God-given purpose, sometimes the people who cheer you on become people who criticize you. Sometimes we must say "no" to something because we've said "yes" to something else.
  - a. Read the following verses and discuss: Colossians 3:23; Galatians 1:10; Proverbs 29:25; Matthew 16:24-26; Romans 12:2
  - b. Who are some of the people in your life you're afraid to let down or disappoint?
  - c. Is there something in your life you could say "yes" or "no" to today?

**Pray together:** Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Thank God for "running the race", even though He knew the people would see Him as the bad guy, a fraud, and someone to get rid of. Ask God to help us say "no" to the things that limit our potential and "yes" to what gives clarity to a what life, fully surrendered to His will and vision, looks like.