



INTRODUCTION / WEEK 6 / March 24, 25, & 28

On Holy Week we remember Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem, his followers waved palm branches and cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" But, strangely, the very first thing Jesus did upon arriving is he went straight to the temple and there he overturned tables and confronted money-changers. Before you know it, those waving palm branches were shaking their fists. Shouts of "Hosanna" were replaced with "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you name somebody today who receives a "hero's welcome?" What does a hero's welcome look like? What does it include? Who is invited?
2. For a hero's welcome, no expense is spared. **Now read Luke 19:28-38.** How was Jesus' welcome different from the "hero's welcome" you imagine in the first question? What details suggest this was not a "no-expense-spared" celebration? (i.e. the donkey, palm branches). Who do you imagine to be in the crowd?
3. Some have called what Jesus experienced on that first Palm Sunday a "peasants parade." Does this change how you imagine the story?
4. **Read Luke 19:41-46.** Why do you think Jesus is weeping over Jerusalem? Why is he so angry?
5. **Read to the group:** *When Jesus stormed up the steps of the temple, he wasn't the least bit surprised or angered by the buying and selling that was going on in the temple. It was commonplace for vendors to sell their goods to travelers who came to visit the temple and offer their sacrifices. Instead, what upset Jesus was the "type" of commerce that was going. Here's the problem: those selling their goods knew what we know — immigrants and foreigners, the poor who traveled from far off place just to catch a glimpse of the temple — they were easy game. They were easy to exploit...and that's what was happening in the temple. Jesus was angry about the economics that exploited the poor, outcast and marginalized. He acted on that anger and this is what would eventually get him killed. Have you ever thought of the story in this way?*
6. What do you imagine God's justice looking like? Do you think God cares about our economics today? How so?
7. **Watch the following video about God's justice:** <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/justice/>
8. During Holy Week we remember how God responds to our injustice. What does God's response look like? What's our call?

MOVING FORWARD

The video talked about how the first followers of Jesus believed that "If God in Jesus declared them righteous when they didn't deserve it, the only response that makes sense is to live a life of justice and mercy." What does a life of justice and mercy look like to you?