

MONDAY 03.30.26 - Zechariah 9:9

Watch the crowd follow after, hollering Praise the Lord, Hosanna! Watch them throw palm branches and cloaks before their king. These people know a king when they see him and they wish to honor him and be saved by him. Here he comes, riding into Jerusalem, the Holy City, riding on a colt, the foal of an ass. All this was predicted by God through the prophet 500 years before it happened. The king coming to save them from Rome, at last!

When it happened, it was all upside down. The King was not saving from Rome or from anyone they could see. He was not building a kingdom in Israel, and though he was riding a colt, a symbol of peace, it was not peace they felt in the air.

But the greatest feat ever was unfolding after this ride. Christ Jesus was showing Himself as the Messiah to the World, not only to the Jews. And the devil knew it well. Check-mate was in the wind.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 03.31.26 - Mark 11:1-11

Has Jesus ever asked you to do something unusual and perhaps out of your comfort zone? In today's scripture we see Jesus asking His disciples to do is just that. They have been with Jesus for three years. They walked everywhere they went. I am sure they were wondering, why now does He need a donkey? Is He really asking us to go into town and essentially steal someone's donkey and expect them to be okay with that? In such situations our tendency is to ask why and to resist doing what Jesus is asking. The disciples believed that Jesus was who He claimed to be and they obeyed without question. What about you? Will you obey Jesus even if you don't fully understand what He is asking you to do, even if it makes you uncomfortable to do so? Remember, Jesus wants us to be committed Christians not comfortable Christians.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 04.01.26 - 2 Cor. 4:13-18

Rejoice in the fact that we serve a risen Savior!

Historian Thomas Arnold of Oxford writes, "The evidence for our Lord's life and death and resurrection may be and often has been shown to be satisfactory. It is good according to the common rules for distinguishing good evidence from bad. Thousands and tens of thousands of persons have gone through it piece by piece as carefully as every judge summing up on an important case. I have myself done it many times over, not to persuade others but to satisfy myself. I have been used for many years to study the history of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is better proved by fuller evidence than the great sign that God has given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead."

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 04.02.26 - Mark 14:22-24

When we become overly familiar with something, or we hear the same words and phrases repeatedly, we tend to simply not hear or focus on the actual words, or their meaning. Those oft-repeated words simply hang in the air as our mind and attention drift. Each month here at Shiloh, we rehearse much of what Mark 14:22-24 says, as we take communion. Yet, the words, the scene, the emotions, the impending crucifixion, the sacrifice and the significance of Christ's Last

Supper with his disciples that he has mentored and loved for the past three years is profound. The bread-HIS body, the wine-HIS blood, offered for the salvation of humanity and establishing a new covenant between God and people changes the course of history, as well as your life and mine.

On Maundy Thursday we remember Christ and the significance of communion. I'm not sure about you, but I know that I need to do a better job each month, as we meditate on all of this and remember.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 04.03.26 - Isaiah 53:4-6

One of the most humbling realities of Jesus' arrest, beating, and crucifixion is captured in a line from the hymn, *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*: "It was MY sin that held Him there." It's true, Jesus died for the sins of the world but don't miss the convicting truth that there is an incredibly personal aspect to this. Isaiah doesn't allow us to read it at a distance; he brings it right to our hearts- "He was pierced for *our* transgressions... crushed for *our* iniquities...". It's painfully personal because of the sin. It's gloriously personal because of the grace. One may be tempted to read this and think, "I did this to Jesus," but the deeper truth is, "Jesus did this for me." Jesus endured everything we deserve in sin, so that we can have everything we don't deserve through grace. Worship the One who took your place.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION
