



### **“DID YOU SAY DONKEY?”**

**SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS**

**DATE: APRIL 10, 2022**

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.*

### **BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:**

#### **MATTHEW 21:1-17**

While the story of Palm Sunday may be familiar to some, and a regular part of the Christian calendar, it offers some really confusing details. When we embrace these unsettling elements of the story, we can learn new things about who Jesus is and who we are called to be in His Kingdom.

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, he is making himself fully known as Israel's Messiah and King. Yet, instead of riding in like a battle-ready monarch, he comes as a gentle servant on a donkey. However, he soon goes to the Temple, drives out the money-makers, and refocuses its purpose as a house of prayer. So, what are we to make of this 2000 years later?

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. How did your week go?
2. With Easter just a week away, do you have any traditions that you have or have had for Easter?
3. Do you have any fun or interesting Easter moments from past Easters?
4. With us coming to the end of the Lent season, did you try to give anything up for Lent this year? If so, how did it go?

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What is a colt and why did Jesus send his disciples to get one?
2. What were the crowds doing as Jesus was entering Jerusalem?
3. What did Jesus confront in the temple in verses 12 through 13?
4. What then did Jesus do in the temple in verse 14?
5. How did the religious leaders feel after the actions of Jesus?

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What does our world think of when they think of a King? How is he portrayed?
2. How have we seen, whether in movies or books, a king to reveal himself and reclaim his land?
3. How do rulers or kings of this world protect or save their people?
4. In your culture or experience, who has been demonstrated as a powerful leader and how do they demonstrate their power?
5. How does our world understand and measure strength and weakness?

**LOOK IN:** *These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What expectations do we place on our King Jesus?
2. Do our personal or cultural expectations limit our understanding of Jesus?
3. When was the last time that you noticed God at work and it wasn't how you expected? Were you surprised? How did you respond?

**CONTINUED:**

4. How might your expectations change if you allow God to serve you in your weakness?
5. In what ways might you need to humble yourself in your own weakness?

**LIVE IT OUT:** *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. During this last week before Easter, spend some time each day in prayer to surrender assumptions, guilts, and fears.
2. Allow yourself to embrace and be humbled in your own weakness this week, so that God may work to truly strengthen you.