



SDG Discussion Guide

Matthew 21:1-11

March 25, 2018

For starters:

How would you arrange for a visiting president to have maximum exposure in your town: A parade? TV or radio show? Where would the president stay? What other plans would you make?

What's a fond memory you have of this time before Easter?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud the passage in your group. Read it a second time, if you can. Before you begin the discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions of the text arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. What else did you notice? Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. To what town has Jesus come? Why?
2. Jesus comes on a donkey and not on a stallion? What does that portray?
3. What kind of kingdom and king were the people expecting? How do their wishes compare with the reality of Jesus?
4. How might that discrepancy account for the same crowd jeering and shouting later, "Crucify him!"?
5. What difference does it make to you that Jesus is a humble and gentle king, and not like the one described in 20:25?
6. How might you have reacted if you had been there to greet Jesus riding into town? Elaborate.
7. How does the humility of Jesus affect you? How about his boldness?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to help you to pray. Ask God to speak to you and to show you anything you need to see in or around the content of this passage. Pause and sit in silence a while, listening.... Ask God to help you to respond. Ask God to both heal and challenge you regarding any particular area where you may need it. Go forth this week in the confidence of the Holy Spirit.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).