

The identity of Christ should radically affect how you live daily.

PULPIT CURRICULUM

PALM SUNDAY / THE IDENTITY OF CHRIST

Luke 19:28-48

1. REVIEW

Share a time you were involved in a case of mistaken identity.

Read Luke 19:28-48. Who is Jesus Christ? What does he reveal about himself in these verses?

Christ's compassion is so compelling in this passage. How does this motivate you to respond?

Submitting to God through prayer is powerful and productive. Spend time as a group reflecting on the triumphal entry - Christ entering the city to fulfill his calling - and turning to the Lord in prayer. Follow the guide below that echoes the prayer time from the weekend service and pray passionately and authentically as a group.

PALM SUNDAY - PRAYER GUIDE

1. FROM GRIEF TO COMFORT

In the midst of the celebration of the triumphal entry, Jesus' heart was grieving. When he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it. Perhaps your heart is grieving today over a situation in your life - a painful relationship, a loss of a loved one, a recent hardship in our church, or a long suffering that you are enduring. It's okay, even healthy, to grieve. Or, perhaps your grieving is related to an area of sin in your life that you desperately want to be free from. Grieving can lead you to repentance, and repentance can lead to the comfort of God's amazing grace.

Jesus says in Matthew 5:4: Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. As we mourn, we are to call out to the Lord in prayer and share our emotions with him. When we do, we move from grief to comfort.

Break up into smaller groups of 2-3 and spend time in prayer on this topic now.

2. FROM WEARINESS TO STRENGTH

Many things in life can make us physically, mentally, relationally, emotionally, and spiritually weary. When we are weary, we need the Lord's strength. Matthew 11:28-30 says, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Strength to endure is from the Lord and in the Lord. We access His strength through prayer & worship.

Spend time in worship (if you can) and prayer as a whole group on this topic now.

PRAYER GUIDE (cont.)

3. FROM CONFUSION TO TRUST

We have all experienced times of confusion in life when we have unanswered questions. We question what's going on in our lives, families, and church. We question God. Sometimes there are no satisfactory answers. What do you do then? God calls us to trust Him - to trust that He is working even when we can't see it.

On days when it is hard, we can turn to the Word. Mark 9:24 says, "I believe; help my unbelief." There is something beautiful that happens in our hearts when we bring our burdens before the Lord and begin to call out to him in faith. **Call to mind areas of confusion then turn them to statements of trusting in the Lord and write them below. After a few minutes, share them with each other.**

4. FROM DISCOURAGED TO HOPE

From faith flows hope. Hope is not wishful thinking. Hope is not about possibilities or probabilities. Hope is anchored in God's character (who He is) and God's promises (what He has said). Hope is the confident assurance that God's purposes will always prevail.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy & peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13. This is a prayer. Our God is a God of hope, and He wants us to be overflowing with hope.

Write a prayer that moves toward Hope in God. We've included some references to help you along.

Romans 15:13, Psalm 46:1-2, Hebrews 13:5, Romans 8:28, Romans 5:3-5, Psalm 119:114, Psalm 130:5, Psalm 42:11, Psalm 147:11, Psalm 71:14

Conclude your time by reading some of these prayers aloud.