

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY—Discussion Guide

(John 12:9-12)

REMEMBERING

1. Today's message began with a quote by Dr. Henry Brandt: "Situations don't make you or break you, they reveal you." When have you seen situations where something surprising was revealed about someone?

REFLECTING

2. When have you surprised yourself—positively or negatively—by your actions or reactions in a situation, and why were you surprised?

DISCOVERING

3. Read [John 12:9-19](#), and answer the questions that follow.

Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the king of Israel!"

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵"Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

¹⁶At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

¹⁷Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word.

¹⁸Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

- What do you know about Jesus that support the assertions in the text and today's message that he is Savior, King, and Messiah?
- What do you know about yourself and others that support the assertions in the text and today's message that we are slow learners and fickle followers?

CONNECTING

4. What do you need most from Jesus right now? Why?

- Search-and-Rescue
- One-in-Charge
- Fulfillment of Hope

RESPONDING

5. Let's pray together for you or someone in your circle of friends or family because they need:
 - A Savior, to be sought and rescued (lost and in trouble)
 - A King, to be in charge (out of control)
 - A Messiah, to have their hopes fulfilled (heart sick, in despair)

Leaders should identify and meet the needs of their people, serve them. I did not say that they should identify and meet the wants of their people, be slaves to them. Slaves do what others want, servants do what others need. There is a world of difference between meeting wants and meeting needs.

- James C. Hunter, *The Servant*