



Community group

*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

INTRODUCTION

03/20/2016

The final week of Jesus' life, "Holy Week", marks a transition in his ministry. The crowds herald this moment with palms. This journey begins with one of the boldest claims of Jesus. This claim is divisive, but serves the purpose of restoration.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define the concept of authority? Where does it come from?
2. What are the marks of someone who possess authority?
3. Read Matthew 21:1-17. What elements of this passage seem intentional? How does Jesus leverage these things? To what end?
4. Why does Matthew cite several Old Testament passages throughout this section? Where are these quotes located in the Old Testament?
5. What does the crowd's confession "Hosanna Son of David" communicate about their expectation or hope?

6. Read Exodus 6:5-7. Israel is under the control of a false king, Pharaoh. What four promises does God give them in this passage?

7. How does someone change their allegiance from these “false kings” to God? What actions are necessary on our part? (Exodus 2:23-25; cf. 1 John 1:9)

8. Define the concept of a “false king”. What would you consider a “false king” in your life?

9. What might your life look like if these things no longer held control over you?

10. Read Romans 6:5-14. The Apostle Paul states that sin is our master, our false king. How does Jesus make it possible to change our allegiance from sin to God? (cf. Romans 5:6-11)

11. The death and resurrection of Jesus confirm his claim of authority. What does his death and resurrection mean for those who place their faith in him?

MOVING FORWARD

Giving our allegiance to Jesus prepares us to experience the power and transformation of Jesus' resurrection. In the bulletin this week there is a “Prayer for Holy Week”. You are encouraged to pray this prayer as you prepare for and reflect upon Easter.