



PURSUIT

Pursuit Part 4
Palm Sunday
Pastor Dave Patterson
3-24-18

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

Feature song: Awe and Wonder

When we respond to the revelation of the greatness of God, we'll be changed.

Worship from a Place of Revelation

Revelation = something revealed that was previously hidden

Matthew 21:1-16

As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. "Go into the village over there," he said. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will immediately let you take them."

This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said,

“Tell the people of Jerusalem,
‘Look, your King is coming to you.
He is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey’s colt.’”

The two disciples did as Jesus commanded. They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it.

Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. “Who is this?” they asked. And the crowds replied, “It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves!”

Then the blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David.”

But the leaders were indignant. They asked Jesus, “Do you hear what these children are saying?”

“Yes,” Jesus replied. “Haven’t you ever read the Scriptures? For they say,

“From the lips of children and infants
you, Lord, have called forth your praise”

Psalm 8

LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory
in the heavens.
Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?

...LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Acts 7:48

“However, the Most High doesn’t live in temples made by human hands”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Don’t you realize that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you** and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So, you must honor God with your body.

A revelation of God requires a response!
--

4 Outcomes that Happen When We Worship in Response to a Revelation

1. Praise ushers in the presence of the King
 - Matt. 21:8-9: “*Hosanna to the Son of David!*”
 - Praise is an invitation - Psalm 22:3

- Enthroned = the authority of God is ushered in on the praise of His people

2. Praise Purifies

- Matt. 21:12: “*Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all...*”
- True praise doesn’t cohabitate with sin and bondage. It’s heaven in and hell out!

3. Praise Releases Power

- Matt. 12:14: “*Then the blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them*”
- Jesus doesn’t leave us in our brokenness and sin

4. Praise Defeats our enemies

- **Psalm 8:2 (AMP)**

From the mouths *and souls* of infants and toddlers, *the most innocent*,

You have ordained praise and decreed power to stop Your adversaries, silencing and all who oppose You.

- **Psalm 149:1&6**

Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,

And His praise in the assembly of saints.

Let the high praises of God **be in their mouth**,

And a two-edged sword in their hand,

- Our adversaries/enemies can be varied: fear, poverty spirit, anxiety, addiction, failure . . .

The Apostle John was given a revelation of Jesus at His second coming . . .

Revelation 19:11-16

Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will trample the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God, the All Powerful. And there on His robe and on His thigh was written His name: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS!**

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Other than God, has there been something/someone in your life that, at first look, didn't capture your attention, but as time progressed your perception changed? What affected the change?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. In the Matthew passage this week, the crowd ushered Jesus into the Temple with their praise. Today, *we* are the temple of His presence. What are practical ways we can usher in the presence of God into our daily lives? What are hindrances to this, holding you back? Examine the hindrances; are they based on belief (you're not sure of Him) or comfort (uncomfortable with the process)?
3. Pastor Dave brought the point that praise purifies. What are some enemies God has driven from your life? Did worship play a part in this victory? If so, how did you use it as a weapon/tool? How would you encourage others who are in the battle now?
4. In the Matthew passage progression, first came praise (invitation), then Jesus cleansed the Temple, and then power was released - healing took place, people were restored. How have you seen the power of God released to bring healing in your life? Can your praise, offered over the lives of your loved ones not praying for themselves, release God's power?
5. As we consider our victorious King, Revelation 19:11-16, and worship from a revelation of Him, what enemies would you like defeated? What are your next steps this week, this month, to create environments of praise?