



**Palm Sunday**  
**Luke 19:28-40**  
**Week of April 14-20, 2019**

Take time to ask group members, "What is God teaching you during these 45 Days of Faithfulness emphasis?" Remind them it is okay to share both the challenges and the victories. Remind them that today can be a reset if they need it. And what does the next 45 Days look like for you?

Share something from your own experience that points to the faithfulness of God.

What are some faith traditions that you grew up observing during the Easter season? (Passion Week, Holy Week) Be mindful that not everyone comes from a faith/religious background. How have some of those traditions been meaningful to you?

Why Palm Sunday?

This is the fulfillment of the prophecy mentioned in Zechariah.

*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." - Zechariah 9:9 ESV*

*"And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it. So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' And they said, 'The Lord has need of it.' And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!' And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.'"*

*Luke 19:28-40 ESV*

Luke mentions cloaks where the other gospels writers mention palm branches? Why no palm branches in Luke? Palms were a Jewish tradition and since Luke is writing to Gentiles he may have not thought it important.

Does it seem odd that Luke mentions peace in heaven? Most of the time we long for peace on earth and those in the crowd shouted "peace in heaven".

Psalm 118:26 - blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord

Not so triumphal . . . the Pharisees are less than thrilled.

Only in Luke - the Pharisees tell Jesus to rebuke His disciples. They did not accept Jesus as a king. They knew the prophecy and knew that Jesus was fulfilling those prophecies but this Jesus was not the kind of king they were expecting and were unwilling to accept.

Jesus answers with a strong response - a different answer than Jesus gave in Luke 9. Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am. Peter proclaims Jesus is the Christ. Jesus commands them to tell no one this truth.

In chapter 19, Jesus says that if the people fail to acknowledge Him then the rocks will cry out Who He is. Jesus is claiming once again to be God.

Luke 9:20-25

Deny self, take up cross and follow Christ. – This can be a constant point of contention in the believer's life. Denying self means putting our preferences aside, submitting to Christ's authority in our lives and choosing to surrender and be faithful to His will and guidance in our lives.

Why the palms?

We will see the palms again in the future.

*"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands," Revelation 7:9 ESV*

Palm Sunday reminds us that God is faithful to keep His promises.

Even in our unfaithfulness God remains faithful to Himself.

What are some times (that you are willing to share) where God has shown Himself faithful even in your own unfaithfulness? What have you learned from those experiences?

How is God leading you to experience the next 45 Days of Faithfulness?

Take time to share prayer requests and pray together.