**New Provision**

**Opening Question:** Pastor Michael pointed out that so much of our growth seems to center around providing for ourselves whenever we didn’t feel provided for. First, we are just trying to survive, then we move on to thriving. *What’s one thing you rarely had as a kid that you made sure you’d always have as an adult?*

**Tell them:** This week we talked about a new provision and looked at the Triumphal Entry in Matthew 21:1 -11 and Zechariah 9:9.
So, before we look at that let’s Talk to God so that we can hear from Him.

**Pray now** and ask God for eyes to see and ears to hear.

**Read:** Matthew 21:1-11 together

**What does God Provide?**

**Ask them***: What attributes or descriptions of God’s nature are important for us to accept in order to trust in His provision? (omniscience, omnipotence, love, grace, goodness, etc.)*

**1. God provides the prophecy: Tell them:** Matthew quotes Zechariah 9:9. This prophecy prepared the people for the triumphal entry.The fact that this prophecy came true points to the omniscience and omnipotence of God.Pastor Michael gave us three descriptors of Jesus. We saw was that Jesus was:

1. **Legitimate**: **Ask them:** *What words in Zech. 9:9 speak to the legitimacy of the Savior? (“Your king,”)* The New Testament points to the legitimacy of Jesus by showing He was:
	1. from the line of David,
	2. born of a virgin,
	3. announced by the forerunner, John the Baptist,
	4. and blessed by the Father.

God gives us prophecies to give us hope and to reveal His power.

1. **Victorious**: **Ask them:** *How does Zech. 9:9 point to the victory of the Savior?* (“Rejoice greatly.”) **Tell them**: In the New Testament we see that Jesus was victorious because He was:
	1. Tested by the religious elite (whom He schooled.)
	2. And Tempted by Satan himself (whom He frustrated.)
2. **Humble**: **Ask them:** *Where do we see in Zech. 9:9 that the Savior will be humble?* (Humble and mounted on a donkey.) **Tell them:** In the New Testament we see the humility of Christ in the fact that:
	1. He was the Son of God leaving heaven to be born in a manger,
	2. He was the son of a carpenter,
	3. He was a servant leader who washes feet and dines with sinners.

**2. God provides the particulars**: God provides the practical details needed for His purposes as we saw Him providing the donkeys on which Jesus road. They were more than just transportation. The mother donkey could represent the Jews. Those who know the prophecies of God. The colt, unaware, represents the gentiles.

**Ask them:** *When it comes to the plans and purposes of your life, do you worry more about the big picture outcome or the particulars of how those purposes will come to be? Both? By show of hands. How many worry about the big picture stuff? The particulars?*

**Ask them:** *Why do you think we tend to worry more about the particulars? (Pastor Michael said because we believe those are things we can control.) How is that working for you?*

**Ask them**: *What did you think of the Oswald Chambers quote?* ***Tell them:*** I’ll read it to remind you:

**Read:** “If we give way to self-pity and indulge in the luxury of misery, we remove God’s riches from our lives and hinder others from entering into His provision. No sin is worse than the sin of self-pity, because it removes God from the throne of our lives, replacing Him with our own self-interests. It causes us to open our mouths only to complain, and we simply become spiritual sponges— always absorbing, never giving, and never being satisfied. And there is nothing lovely or generous about our lives.”

**Tell them***:* Oswald said that “If we give way to self-pity and indulge in the luxury of misery, we remove God’s riches from our lives and hinder others from entering into His provision.”**Ask them*:*** *How is misery a luxury? What riches does the luxury of misery remove from our lives? (the riches of peace, hope, rest, joy, self-control, etc.)*

**Tell them***: James 1:2–4 is a great passage on the power of misery: “My brothers and sisters, consider it nothing but joy when you fall into all sorts of trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect effect, so that you will be perfect and complete, not deficient in anything.” (James 1:2–4, NET)* **Ask them***: What would self-pity cause you to miss out on according to this passage?*

**Tell them: *Oswald said, “***No sin is worse than the sin of self-pity, because it removes God from the throne of our lives, replacing Him with our own self-interests.” **Ask them:** *In what ways do we put ourselves on the throne of our lives?**Are we better off when we are on the throne?*

**Tell them:** Oswald that self-interest makes us spiritual sponges. **Ask them:** *What is a spiritual sponge?*

**Tell them:** A lot of times complaint is the most common thing to come out of our mouths, but complaint is not only unbiblical, it’s unhealthy.Philippians 2:14 says, “*Do everything without complaining or arguing.*” **Ask them**: *Why would you think that complaint would be unhealthy?*

**Tell them:**Chambers said, “And there is nothing lovely or generous about our lives.” **Ask them:** *Why would we be left with nothing lovely or generous while living in self-pity?* **Ask them:** *So how does it change things once we grasp the truth that God provides the particulars?*

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael said thatGod uses the practical details to give Him glory. Do you remember why he said that was true? (So, we don’t take credit. So, we can see His power.)

**3. God provides the perfect:** Pastor Michael said that God provides the perfect in His Son. **Ask them:** *The perfect what?* Look at 1 Peter 1:1-4.(sanctification, grace, peace, hope, resurrection, love, access to the divine nature, inheritance) **Tell them**: All this means that we don’t have to be prefect. Christ is our perfection. He provides the perfect, we do not.

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael gave us 3 questions to apply to ourselves:

**Ask them:** *Do you trust the prophecies and promises of God? If not, why?
Do you trust the plan and particulars to God? If not, how could you begin?
Do you trust the perfection of Jesus?* *If not, how can we help you?*