



the discipleship

journey

FROM INVITATION TO IMPACT

The Power (Palm Sunday)

Date: March 24, 2024

Text: John 12:9-16; 13:1-17

Big Idea:

What does *power* look like for a Kingdom disciple? John 12:9-11 shows us that the world sees power as political and earthly power. And the early followers of Jesus had a similar view. They were hoping that Jesus would “throw off Rome” and set up His earthly kingdom and then they, as His followers, would be in charge. Jesus shows us at the last supper that power in the Kingdom of Heaven is loving humble serving. The way up is down. This passage shows us that our hope is in Jesus not any human authority.

Opening Questions:

1. What are the first things that come to mind when you hear the word *power*?

Notes on the Passage:

(John 12:9-16) Jesus enters Jerusalem just before the Passover. This was a time where lambs would have been sacrificed as the Jews remembered the salvation of God for their ancestors during the tenth of the ten plagues. Jesus, the greatest lamb of all, rode into Jerusalem preparing to be sacrificed Himself. The people began breaking palm branches, a symbol of Jewish nationalism, and crying “Hosanna.” Yet, they saw Jesus as more of a political and national savior, not understanding their need for Spiritual salvation. Jesus did not ride in boasting of military strength or power, instead, He rode in humbly and peacefully on a young donkey. All the people swarmed Him thinking that His raising of Lazarus from the dead was proof that He would be their military King and leader. Little did they know that victory would come through His submission, not a revolt.

1. Why is it significant that Jesus enters Jerusalem during the time of the Passover? What was the Passover about?
2. What was the leader the people were expecting? What did they expect him to do?
3. Who was Jesus? What did He do instead?

(John 13:1-17) Jesus knows He is about to face a horrific death, yet the Bible tells us that He loved His people to the end. In the moments before He faced His greatest agony, He takes time to comfort His disciples, to serve them, and to wash their feet. Jesus knew that everything about to happen was in the hands of the Father and rather than rely on His own power, He submitted to the will of God. He chose love over hatred- even giving the seat of honor to the one disciple He knew would betray Him. He chose service over honor- He washed each of the disciples and they had to accept the gentle cleansing of Jesus. We cannot partake in His Kingdom if we do not accept His cleansing. Jesus led by example; if our Savior can sacrifice, love, serve, and lower Himself, how can we not do the same? Jesus identifies His betrayer by giving him a piece of the bread, His body. Even as Judas was betraying Jesus, Jesus loved him.

1. What does it mean to us today that a “servant is not greater than his master?”
2. How does it make you feel that Jesus still loved Judas even as he was betraying Him?



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3. Who is sitting at your table that you need to humble yourself and serve? Who do you need to show love to even if they do not deserve it?

Going Deeper:

1. What is significant about washing of feet?
2. Why do you think Peter refused at first? What was Jesus' response?
3. How does it change your perspective that Judas was in the seat of honor?
4. What are other times in Scripture where Jesus modeled service and humility over pride and prestige?
5. How can you begin to implement these into your life today?

Additional Resources:

[Messages on John 12 | Desiring God](#)- sermon

[Bing Videos](#)- Sermon John 13

[Daily Devotion - John 13 - Humility - Devorable](#)- Devotion

Group Activity: