

The Cry of the Crowd and the Call of Christ

Week of March 22: John 12:2-26

Observation

1. Read John 12:12-26. What is familiar to you in this story? Is there anything you've never noticed before?
2. What questions do you have about the text?

Observation: What does it say?

1. What do you notice about the text?
Things to look for:
 - repeating words and phrases
 - Answers to the questions: who, what, when, where and how?
 - contrasts and comparisons
 - similes and metaphors (images used in the text)
 - cause and effect relationships
 - details regarding: time, geography, place, people, action in the text
 - grammar
 - larger themes in the passage
 - key words and themes
2. What questions do you have?

Interpretation

1. In 12:9-11, we see that many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him. This could also be translated to 'have faith' in him. What do you think they believed about Jesus at this time?

2. What do you think verses 23-26 mean for Jesus? What do they mean for his disciples? Compare this with Matthew 10:37-39 and Mark 8:34-36. How might the Matthew and Mark passages help us to understand what Jesus is saying to his followers here?

Interpretation

The goal here is to answer questions raised by the text and to get at the central message of the passage itself.

What did the text mean for the original audience?

How might you summarize the central point of the passage?

Application

1. In this passage, we see that it was the raising of Lazarus from the dead that accounted for many people believing in Jesus. Today, what do you think causes people to go over to Jesus and believe in him?
2. If as followers of Jesus, we are to have different priorities, what does it look like for us to follow Jesus today? How are we to live differently?

Suggestion for Prayer

Consider reading Psalm 118 out-loud together as a prayer of praise.