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## SERMON TITLE – “Donkey King”

Week 2 - March 13, 2022 – Pastor Bryan Wilkerson

Welcome to our new Lent Series – “Change-Maker: The Dawn of Something New.” This year leading up to Easter, we're all about creating a difference—in the world, in our habits, and in our hearts. Tracing the iconic scenes of Holy Week, full of surprises and contradictions, we glimpse the heart and mind of Jesus Christ, changemaker.

The second message brings us back to the beginning of Holy Week, particularly, Jesus' triumphal entry.

Let's slowly read Matthew 21:1-10 and keep it open so we can refer easily back to the text (Leader, read the Passage first, then the Context, then the Questions. If you have not opened the time of study in prayer, this would be an appropriate moment).

### GROUP DISCUSSIONS QUESTIONS

Q- As you read the text, what do you find as intriguing, curious, or concerning to you?

Q – Conquering rulers would ride into town on a horse alongside their conquering army. And victorious rulers would ride in on a donkey (also with their armies) if the city had accepted defeat and thus, would not resist the new power (they called this “peace” like in the Roman sense, *Pax Romana*). Jesus' riding in is a point back to the priest Zadok putting Solomon on a King David's mule as he took the throne about 970 years before Jesus. Given all this context, what was Jesus saying as he rode in a colt?  
*(Jesus is certainly connecting all the dots in Israelite history and the Roman world and proclaiming that he is a King, but a King of a different type of Kingdom – the Father's Kingdom that he has been proclaiming all along.)*

Q – The crowd wants a political and an earthly powerful Messiah that will overthrow the Roman rulers out of Jerusalem and ultimately restore Israel to the glory of King David's reign (hence the chant given). What are the clues in this scene that Jesus is not leading a political revolution but something far different?



*(Riding in a donkey, weeping in mercy for his people, giving no speeches or indications of any type of political campaign or violent upheaval. After this scene, Jesus is going to head to the Temple and clear out the corrupt money changers.)*

Q - Make no mistake, despite making no attempt at a political revolution, Jesus is making the most dramatic of changes that are ultimately cosmic and deeply personal. His revolution is to overthrow death, evil, and sin and bring life, goodness, and forgiveness through his death and resurrection. Had Jesus took on an earthly throne, none of this would have ever happened. Why do you think the disciples, who were with Jesus for three years, could not see this vision of the Kingdom? What do you think modern readers might miss about this story?

Q - This Lent, we want to identify the changes Jesus brings in these accounts of Scripture, and how these changes can profoundly impact our lives and the world around us. Today we see the change from “powering up” to stooping down.” What can we apply to our everyday lives as we reflect on this?



## HOW TO USE THESE STUDY GUIDES

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
  - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
  - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team.