



YOU WERE MADE TO PRAISE

John 12:12-22

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BIG IDEA: You were made to praise your Creator. Ignoring that design will cause life to lose its purpose.

John 12 NIV (See also Matthew 21; Mark 11; and Luke 19.)

12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" (Psalm 118) 14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, 15 "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." (Zech. 9) 16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

Jesus is worthy of public celebration.

The crowd quoted Psalm 118:25; Jesus used the same Psalm to refute the religious leaders. HOSANNA in the Hebrew, means "save, we pray." The palm was a national symbol, appearing on Jewish coins. Jesus is riding not a horse of victory but a lowly donkey symbolizing peace.

What is genuine praise?

Hebrews 13:15-16 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Real praise is the fruit of your lips.

Real praise is the fruit of your actions.

Jesus is worthy of private lamentation.

Luke 19:41-42 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes."

"Do you ever weep over your sin and lack of praise?"

You were made to praise! So weep and then get back up and praise the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

Next Sunday: John 12: 23-36 "You Have to Die to Live" **YOU WERE MADE TO PRAISE**
John 12:12-22
LSC LifeGroup Study Guide

Discuss. The Big Idea of the sermon is "You were made to praise your Creator. Ignoring that design will cause life to lose its purpose."

Do you agree? Why? What is our life like when we praise Him?

Review: What events happened and how did Jesus reveal Himself leading up to this passage? (Review John 6-12)

Read John 12:1-22

What do you think John's main thrust is in writing this?

To what feast is John referring in 12:12 (see John 12:1)?

What is the importance of this feast (Exod. 12, 1 Cor. 15:7)?

What is your first impression of Jesus and the crowd?

Jesus is worthy of public celebration. 12-15

Read Zechariah 9:9 and Psalm 118:25-26; The Hebrew word translated "HOSANNA" means "save, we pray." The phrase came to mean "Hurrah." Forms of this word were used to address the king (with a need (2 Sam 14:4; 2 Kings 6:26). The palm was a national symbol, appearing on Jewish coins.

Jesus is not riding a horse of victory but a lowly donkey symbolizing peace. What does this choice of Jesus mean?

From what did these Jews expect Jesus, their new hero, to save them? What was Jesus coming to Jerusalem to do (12:7)?

What is genuine praise? Read Hebrews 13:15-16

What are the two main ways we praise God?

Share with each other some of the reasons you are praising God.

Share with each other some ways individuals and groups can praise God with their good deeds.

Reflect on your last service project as a group. How did that bring praise to God? Discuss your next LifeGroup service project. How will that bring

praise to God? What good works can you do for each other that will bring praise to God (see Galatians 6:6-10)?

Take some time in your LG meeting to acknowledge to the Lord what He has done for us and for saving us, and ask God to guide us in our praise with our lips and our lives.

Jesus is worthy of private lamentation.

Read Luke 19:41-42.

As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it.

What did Jesus see and think that caused Him to weep?

What did He say?

If Jesus rode into the Omaha area and saw the city, neighborhood, or your life, what would He see and think? What would make Him rejoice? What would make Him weep?

Have you ever wept over your family, your community, your church, the world? What made you weep?

What causes you to rejoice in how God is working in you and around you?

What needs to change in people's lives to transform them to praise God?

Take it home

What is the most valuable lesson for you out of this passage?