

Palm Sunday

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Memory Verse:

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1

1) CATCH UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. Because God is our Father, we are family. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?

What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)? are there any practical needs you have right now?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2) REVIEW THE MISSION

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we have been sent as missionaries in everyday life to display God's glory and lead others to repentance and faith through belief in the gospel. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

As Easter approaches who in your life might accept an invitation to join us? Take a moment to pray for them.

3) DISCUSS AND ENGAGE

Since we follow Jesus, we seek to apply the Gospel continually to all of life. God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25).

Read Luke 18:31-34

What stands out to you from this passage?

Why do you think that Jesus keeps telling his disciples what is going to happen when they get to Jerusalem?

How does Jesus' clear foreknowledge of the coming events affect how you view the crucifixion?

Read Luke 18:9-14

Who is Jesus telling this parable to, and what is the main point of this parable?

What is wrong with the Pharisee's prayer? How do his words display his understanding of himself and his understanding of God?

In what ways are you tempted to "trust in yourself"?

Tax Collectors were some of the most reviled people in Jewish society (they had betrayed their nation and were extorting their own people for personal benefit while supporting the occupation of the Romans) – why do you think Jesus used as Tax Collector in this story?

How does this story impact your view of the gospel?