

## Digging Deeper into John 12:9-19

### Chat

- If Jesus was riding into your town, what would you call out to him?



### Study

Read John 12:9-19

Verses 10-11 provide a sinister backdrop to the events (see also Jn.11:53) that should be borne in mind as you read about Jesus' grand entrance into Jerusalem

- Why was there a great crowd in Jerusalem (v.9, 12, 19)?
- *Palm branches had links with Jewish nationalism (since the Maccabean revolution in 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE) They were also stamped on coins by Jewish rebels during wars with Rome.*  
What do you think it means that the crowds took branches from palm trees with them when they went to meet Jesus (v.13)?
- The first two cries of the crowd can be found in Ps.118:25-26 ('Hosanna' means 'save us now') and were used to welcome pilgrims into Jerusalem. But their third cry is not in the Psalm.  
What do you think the Jews in the crowd hoped Jesus had come to do?
- *Read Zechariah 9:9-10.* By riding the colt of a donkey, how is Jesus trying to change people's perception of him?
- Who else didn't understand what was happening (v.16)?
- The section ends with a reminder that not everyone was happy to see Jesus. Who was frustrated at what they saw (v.19)?

### Think

There are different aspects to this story:

- One is a wonderful celebration of Jesus. There are lots of ways we can praise Jesus: e.g., through prayer, songs, art, etc. Take some time to praise Jesus in a way that is natural for you.
- Many who praised Jesus on that first 'Palm Sunday' did so with their own view of who they thought he was and what they presumed he'd come to do. Is it possible that we have created a picture of Jesus that suits us and what we think he should be like? How do we react when our understanding of Jesus is challenged?
- And we remember the backdrop to this story – the chief priests and Pharisees did not accept Jesus as their king or as God's promised Messiah and Saviour – that will lead to the crucifixion.  
As you walk with Jesus through Easter week, choose one of the gospels and spend time reading and reflecting on the Easter story, starting with Palm Sunday (*Matthew ch.21 – 28; Mark ch.11 - 16; Luke ch.19:28 – ch.24; or John ch.12 – 21*).  
If you have children or grandchildren, read part of it each day to them from a story Bible or from the International Children's Bible (if you don't have a copy, you can read it online at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com))

