

SERMON STUDY GUIDE—April 5, 2020
“Lord, Don’t Answer My Prayer”
(PALM SUNDAY)

John 12:12-16 (New International Version)

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. 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!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your King is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” 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 these things had been done to Him.

1. Review scripture.
 - a. Why were the crowds gathered here?
 - b. What is the significance of palms?
 - c. When did the disciples realize the significance of all of these events?
2. Review sermon theme: *“The best way to celebrate is to find some way to serve.”*
 - a. What things will be different/missing in our Holy Week celebrations this year?
 - b. How do Jews usually celebrate their Passover meal (Seder)?

- c. Why was this celebration more political than religious?
 - d. What did they mean by “Save us!” (“Hosanna!”)? From whom?
 - e. Why were the disciples caught up in it?
 - f. What are OUR prayers right now?
 - g. *“Lord, please don’t answer my prayers if I am asking for less than You want to give! Let me not be satisfied with wanting anything less than Your will and Your kingdom!”*
 - h. If what we want is not what God wants, whose plans should change?
 - i. *“What I do believe is that God can use this current struggle to remind us what He intends for our lives—to live at peace and in grace with each other, and to be there for our brother and sister in need.”*
 - j. *“Through this time right now, I want for people to say, ‘I am more settled, more at peace with God, because of how Wesley UMC served during this crisis.’”*
3. *“It’s not the numbers that are here on Sunday morning that count; it’s the hearts that are changed through our influence.”*
 - a. Place some palm branches (or other greenery) over/on your door.
 - b. Call somebody this week to reach out.