



## Community Group Lesson Plan • Abbotsford

### Title of Sermon: Behold the King

Passage: Matthew 21:1-17

### Sermon Points -

1. All of this was planned.
  - a. Have you ever been in a situation where you knew you were going to face a painful outcome, what would motivate you to go through with it?
  - b. Have you ever thought of Jesus' death as cosmic child abuse? If not, how do you think people would come to that conclusion? the Father killing him without his permission
  - c. What in this passage demonstrates that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were all in agreement about this course of action?
  - d. Read Zechariah 9:9. When you read about fulfilled prophecy from the Old Testament in the New Testament, what kind of confidence does this give you about God's involvement in the world? How does this make you feel about God's involvement in your life?
  - e. Does the fact that Jesus knowingly offers himself to the authorities so that he might die for others, how does that make you feel about his love for us?
    - i. Why is it that we struggle to think God loves us?
    - ii. How is Jesus' willingness to go to the cross the greatest example of His love for us?
    - iii. Do you find yourself defaulting to the idea that God doesn't love you or that he has forgotten about you? What can we do to help ourselves reflect on God's love on a regular basis? (Ephesians 5:19-20, Psalm 1:1-3, Philippians 4:6-7)
2. The plan was greater than expected.
  - a. Read Matthew 27:15-23. Why do the same people who rejoice over Jesus' entry, turn on him? What happened to make them turn on him?
    - i. Have you ever been let down by God? Have your expectations ever gone unfulfilled? How did you respond?
  - b. Quotes:

*"What does this greed and helplessness proclaim, except that there was once within us true happiness of which all that now remains is the outline and empty trace? Man tries unsuccessfully to fill this void with everything that surrounds him, seeking in absent things the help he cannot find in those that are present, but all are incapable of it. This infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite, immutable object, that is to say, God himself."*

- Blaise Pascal



*"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."*

- *Saint Augustine*

- i. What is it that they are saying in the above quotes? Is it true? Why or why not?
- ii. How do people try to fill the "infinite abyss"? What are some examples of ways that we try to find rest in things other than the Lord?
- iii. Do you think that God fills this "infinite abyss" for Christians? Why or why not? Do Christians always act like he has filled it? Discuss ways in which we remain unsatisfied and why this could be the case.
- iv. Is your heart still restless? If this is the case, why? How do we embrace what we already have?

### **Wrap Up and Prayer**

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group? Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon? Pray for each other along with other requests.

### **Benediction** - Revelation 7:12 NIV

*"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."*