



Grow. Pray. Serve.

April 09, 2017

Surely Not I, Lord?

1. Holy Week begins today. We move through the last days of Jesus' life. By engaging wholeheartedly in the events of Holy Week, not just Easter, we are transformed.
2. We are always in a season of Lent (struggles, pain, trials, challenges), but we can always choose to focus on the hope of the resurrection.
3. How would you meet Jesus today?
4. The Last Supper
 - a. Sharing a meal suggests a bondedness and love among friends.
 - b. Passover meal would have included dipping hands into the same bowl – very intimate.
 - c. Makes the betrayal by Judas even more difficult to comprehend.
5. Judas: "liar, greedy, evil." But not so fast. Jesus didn't condemn Judas.
6. Do we not all have a little Judas in us? This is hard to hear, but important for us to consider:
 - a. do we deny our own transgressions, temptations and guilt? "Surely not I, Lord?"
 - b. How have we treated others, how have we treated ourselves, when we have behaved badly or not in keeping with expectations?
 - c. We are hard on ourselves and others. But Jesus confronts everyone with love.
7. Judas repents. He acknowledges his sin and he tries to undo the wrong. The leaders dismiss him: "see to it yourself." Deal with it.
 - a. Shame and guilt are hard to deal with.
 - b. Jesus is always near. Always responds with forgiveness.
 - c. Staying stuck in guilt and shame leads to destruction, not redemption.
8. The heartbreak of Holy Week – which takes us from the highest highs to the lowest low – always leads to hope.

Today's Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV)

21When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."



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