

triumphant ride into Jerusalem. As the events of Holy Week unfold, we recognize the fading loyalty of Jesus' followers – even the chosen twelve. Many of the people wanted Jesus to be a King like David, a warrior and military strategist. Jesus fulfilled the vision of Zechariah with the understanding that Jesus' Kingdom was peaceable.

How about us? Are there times when we desire God to vanquish our enemies rather than make peace with them? How does this relate to our enemies within? Write your thoughts here and pray to be strengthened in your faith – especially during tough times.

### **Thursday, March 28**

Today is Maundy Thursday when we remember the Last Supper and begin to focus on the denial and desertion of Jesus' disciples. We see in Jesus' chosen twelve – especially Peter – our own tendencies to deny Jesus. We do so when we do not behave as Christ followers seeking to love the lost and offer encouragement to those who are down trodden.

Meditate today what it means to deny Christ and ask for God's forgiveness that you may be renewed to do God's will!

### **Friday, March 29**

Read Mark 11:1-11. It's Good Friday – the day we remember Jesus' death on the cross. Although we are aware that the Easter Miracle awaits us, Good Friday should give us pause to think about the depth of God's love demonstrated by the suffering and death of Jesus. While it is not appropriate to cheer Jesus as we remember his laying down his life for ours, we might count Jesus among the cloud of witnesses that cheers us on in our struggles. After all, Jesus the Christ suffered and struggled so that we would know freedom and God's love!

## ***Message Notes – March 24, 2024*** ***Jesus and the Prophets*** ***– Zechariah's Hope\****

- I. Have you ever been part of a losing team or gone into a competition knowing that you were not likely to \_\_\_?
  - A. When your back is up against the wall and you have nothing to lose and everything to gain, you take \_\_\_\_\_.
    1. That fact sometimes results in people taking \_\_\_\_\_ risks and therefore they lose everything.
    2. On the other hand, you get pretty \_\_\_\_\_ and take risks in order to realize great gains.
  - B. There are times when you're not the \_\_\_\_\_ team and it appears you're not likely to win; however, you still have to play the game to determine the victor.
  
- II. For many who followed Jesus into the city of Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday, it may have seemed like Jesus was favored to claim \_\_\_\_\_ for himself.
  - A. In their minds, Jesus was communicating symbolically his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. The impact of Jesus' actions was he was a King entering the Holy City not as a conquering hero but as a bearer of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. Those who followed Jesus into the city most likely didn't realize the \_\_\_\_\_ nature of his kingdom.
    1. They wanted a king who would vanquish their \_\_\_\_\_ and allow them to govern themselves.
    2. They wanted King David – a mighty \_\_\_\_\_, successful in battle, annihilating their enemies and oppressors.

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\*Mark 11:1-11 and Hebrews 12:1-6

- III. Mark, as he writes his account of Jesus' life, emphasizes the fact that Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_ who comes in peace, brings peace to the people.
- To be sure, Mark also wrote about Jesus turning over the tables in the Temple but for Mark, Jesus did that the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Mark wants to emphasize the fact that Jesus comes in peace and so he \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem from the cleansing of the Temple.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ came in peace, to give us peace.
  - The enemies that Jesus is going to conquer and not only those who oppress us, but also our enemies from \_\_\_\_\_.
- IV. The peace Jesus gives will calm our hearts and sustain us in times of difficulty – and we will remember those difficulties this next week – \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus may seem like he's the favored one at this time but that situation turns quickly and the same people who cried, "\_\_\_\_\_" on Palm Sunday will cry, "\_\_\_\_\_"! on Good Friday.
  - He came that we would know the peace he brings and to \_\_\_\_\_ victory when all around us is telling us that things look bleak.
  - We are part of the greatest effort on earth to lift \_\_\_\_\_ up for the noblest purposes which God gives to us.
  - Remember, we're not always the \_\_\_\_\_ team – but we're a team nonetheless.
  - We must remember that when times are tough, and victory is not always apparent, we need to remember this, "The Lord has need of \_\_\_\_\_."

## ***Daily Meditations and Study Guide***

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, March 25**

Holy Week – the week that we commemorate as Palm or Passion Sunday to Easter Sunday – provides a story that is full of twists, turns, intrigue and reversals of fortune. We move from triumph to tragedy, celebration is transformed into catastrophe and the good times of Palm Sunday leads to the darkness of Good Friday. The twists and turns of Holy Week – from Palm Sunday to Easter – are meant for us to recognize the depth of God's love and the tremendous price paid for God's grace.

How do you feel about Holy Week? Is it a high spiritual time in your life or would you rather avoid the whole twisted narrative? Write your thoughts here and pray that God will provide you with a depth of understanding of his great love for you.

### **Tuesday, March 26**

Read Mark 11:1-11 and Hebrews 12:1-6. Have you ever been a part of a losing team or entered into a competition that you were not likely to win? How did you feel? How did you maintain any sense of hope while entering the fray of competition? Were you encouraged by others who equally knew you were not likely to win? Read the beginning of the Hebrews passage. Was there a "cloud of witnesses" cheering you?

Think of that time when you had your back against the wall. Did you take risks in order to claim victory? Did the support of others help keep you in the running? Write your thoughts here, meditate upon the idea of hoping for the best in difficult times and ask God to give you the boldness to claim victory – even before the battle begins!

### **Wednesday, March 27**

Read Zechariah 9:9-12. One of the most remarkable observations we can make about the events we commemorate during Holy Week is the fickleness of those who supported Jesus during his