

## **Closer to the Cross:**

### **A Journey from Death to Life**

#### **Part Four: With Jesus & His “Triumphal” Arrival, Matthew 21:1-11**

Who do you say that Jesus is? Jesus first asked the question in Matthew 16:15, and it has been the most life-changing question ever since. Consider your answer based on these challenges: (1) the tendency to answer based on personal expectations and conveniences about Jesus; and (2) the reality that any answer will require a step of faith. Jesus helps us get to the heart of the question with His three death predictions and His journey to the cross. We continue with the Palm Sunday edition and Jesus’ “triumphal” arrival into Jerusalem. Read Matthew 21:1–11

If Jesus already had His focus on the cross when He arrived in Jerusalem, then how do we explain all of the majestic fanfare during His arrival? We find answers from the Context, the Colt, and the Crowd.

#### **Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. What miracle had Jesus performed shortly before His arrival in Jerusalem?
2. How did this miracle impact the people and the Jewish leadership?
3. Why was Jesus being so careful to protect the mission & manner of His death?
4. What does the colt teach us about who Jesus is, considering Zechariah 9:9?
5. What does faithfulness mean to you and what does this event teach us about it?
6. Describe a time when you focused on a task and nothing stopped you from it.
7. Describe a time when you asked for something you wanted but regretted it later.
8. What does the crowd in Matt. 21 teach us about our own human nature?
9. Jesus entered the city knowing that the crowd would turn on Him. Why?

#### **Final Thoughts and Closing Prayer:**

What will I do this week to be more consistent in my love for Jesus?

How will I live better and help others do the same because of this study?

#### **Notes & Reflections:**