

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 9, 2017

Matthew 2:1-11; 27:11-54

So much covered in this one day. We enter with palms and then end with Jesus' death on the cross. So much to try and understand, comprehend, and grasp on this Sunday. Yet, the thing that continued to pull me in this week is that question the crowds ask as Jesus enters Jerusalem. It's essentially the question Pilate asks Jesus and the religious leaders. It's the question all have been asking and trying to figure out. Who is this? Who is this Jesus?

That question is one we continue to ask. We are called to proclaim who this is to the world. And right now the world is desperately seeking that question. Who is this? Why does this Jesus matter? It has been a challenging week. Photos of men, women, and children killed by chemical weapons. The horror and agony. Who is this Jesus when this happens?

Even in our own lives. In the good and in the bad. Who is this Jesus? It's a question we are called and sent to proclaim but I wonder if it's a question we are prepared to answer. We don't spend a lot of time talking about our faith. Explaining to others who Jesus is? What difference does he make in our lives and in the world? How are we to proclaim this good news if we can't talk about it?

Who is the Jesus that enters the world? Who is this Jesus journeys toward the cross? Who is this Jesus who chooses not use his power to save himself? Who is this Jesus that eats with sinners? Who is this Jesus that heals the blind? Who is this Jesus that raises a dead man? Who is this Jesus that sends average and ordinary disciples out in the world to help fulfill the mission God sent him to do? Who is this Jesus that hangs from a cross, in pain, and with the world calls out for God? Who is this Jesus that rises to new life on Easter?

A question we need to carefully consider. This Jesus is one who meets the world in pain; agony; death; heartache. This Jesus is there. This Jesus is one whom stands on the side of the oppressed and forgotten. This Jesus is a different king than any other the world has ever known and will ever know. This Jesus is God – here and now; with us; with the world; with the wounded; with the broken; with the downtrodden. This Jesus is at work.

This Jesus is full of love the world will never be able to understand. Full of grace. Full of mercy. Full of forgiveness.

Main Point: Ponder the question "Who is Jesus?"