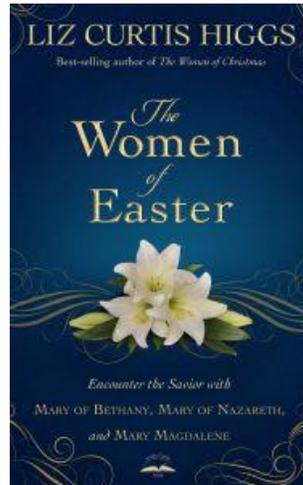


Word by Word with Liz Curtis Higgs on the Faith Radio Network
Bible Study Guide for March 24-25, 2018 | Jesus on Palm Sunday
from *The Women of Easter* by Liz Curtis Higgs



1. Read Matthew 21:1-11 and John 12:12-19. What details stand out to you in these two accounts of the Lord's journey toward Jerusalem? How does your church observe Palm Sunday? And how do you celebrate that day in your heart? What prompts you to praise God any day of the year? His goodness? His faithfulness? His love? Make a list of His divine qualities that would inspire you to shout "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matthew 21:9).
2. As we read in Luke 19:37, on the first Palm Sunday the crowd loudly praised God for all the miracles they had seen. Is that the same as praising Him for who He is? Why or why not? What does John 2:23 describe as the result of Jesus performing signs and miracles? Now read the account of the Galilean official in John 2:46-53. What do you learn from this story about Jesus the miracle worker? And about human nature? In what ways has reading about—or experiencing personally—miraculous proof of the Lord's power helped you believe in Him?
3. When Jesus approached the Holy City, he wept. For a deeper understanding of what prompted His tears, read Luke 19:41-44. Though the details are not named, Jesus is foretelling the destruction of Jerusalem, which would come at the hands of the Romans in 70 A.D.. Mere days later, when Jesus was on His way to the cross, He paused to speak to a group of women from the city who were following Him. Read Luke 23:27-31. What purpose might the Lord have had in sharing these dire words? How might this same warning speak to us today?

4. On the heels of His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, the Lord was confronted with moneychangers in the temple courts—a jarring reminder of mankind’s disregard for the sacred and endless obsession with money. The Lord could have ordered His disciples to overturn the tables. Why was it important for Jesus to do this Himself? What message might His actions have communicated to those who were watching? And how does this scene speak to you personally?
5. Moments later we find Jesus healing the blind and the lame. How do you reconcile these juxtaposed images of Him angrily tossing aside a table one minute, and then gently healing people the next? In the same way, how might you explain “God is a righteous judge, a God who displays his wrath every day” (Psalm 7:11), in light of the promise that “his compassions never fail. They are new every morning”? (Lamentations 3:22-23). As you form your answers, imagine you are sitting across from a friend who has not yet confessed Christ as his or her Savior and is trying to understand how a God of wrath can also be a God of love. What would you say to your friend?
6. What’s the most important lesson you learned from the story of Palm Sunday, when Jesus was lauded by strangers and disciples alike, yet scorned by the Pharisees?