

Life Group Sermon Summary Questions

Palm Sunday

These questions are for the March 20, 2016 message, "The Gate of the LORD." Please read the sermon passage, Psalm 188:19-29, together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

ON THIS PALM SUNDAY, CONSIDER . . .

- 1. The access God has provided (19)**
 - a. God was not obligated to provide any access at all. Access in Christ is of God's grace.
 - b. These "gates of righteousness" can only be opened from the inside by the Righteous One.
 - c. Consider the requests:
 - i. "Open the gates of righteousness . . ." (emphasizing the need for God's grace)
 - ii. "That I may enter through them . . ." (emphasizing access by Christ alone)
 - iii. "And give thanks to the LORD." (emphasizing the source of this blessed gift)
- 2. The salvation that God has secured (20-27)**
 - a. There is none righteous--none who can enter on their own merits (Romans 3:20-23)
 - b. It is an exclusive thing to enter. Christ is our only grounds of righteousness.
 - i. Many will be denied access because they refuse to come via Christ alone.
 - ii. All who come must come by Christ (Acts 4:11-12)
 - c. The work that God has done is marvelous!
 - d. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord ("Hosanna"= "save now; John 12:12)
- 3. The thankfulness that God has desired (28-29)**
 - a. God wants his people to learn to give thanks to him.
 - b. He is so good to us!

Life Group Questions

1. From number 1, above: In what ways have you honestly tried to get "in" on your own merit? How to you, even now, sometimes try to earn or deserve entrance into God's presence? How can you effectively stop that practice? How does it lead to self-righteousness? How can it lead to legalism?
2. From number 1, above: Spend a few minutes discussing the implications that the "gate" can only be opened by the Righteous One, and that he has opened it for those who trust him. How can we become better at graciously bring this point into our everyday conversations?
3. From number 2, above: Describe a recent conversation that gave you the opportunity to discuss the fact that Jesus is "exclusive." He receives those who turn to him in faith, and rejects all others.
4. From number 3, above: Do you express thankfulness to God? Do you express thankfulness in word (through prayer)? Do you express thankfulness in peace (the absence of anxiety in your heart because you believe him)? Do you express thankfulness in deed (serving him)? Do you express thankfulness in joy (choosing to remember that his purposes will come to pass)? How can we pray for you?