



MARCH 28, 2010

Opening Question: *(goal: to initiate conversation and help us learn more about the people in our group)*

What is your favorite type of leaf?

REVERB- Noun- to be repeatedly reflected in conversation

(goal: to discuss what we heard in the message and to dig deeper)

- Reread today's passage: Luke 19:29-48
- What was the main idea you got from the message?
 - Dig deeper: Why does Luke end the story of Jesus coming into Jerusalem with the story of Jesus at the temple? The first stop he made in Jerusalem was to this religious people, in the temple, their place of worship. We see him driving out those who are selling in the temple, saying "it is written, my house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers." Jesus recognized the sorry state of the place of worship, and of the people who worshipped there. And he had to cleanse it before he could begin his own ministry of teaching there. What did that have to do with Jesus' statement "If you, even you, had known on this day what would bring you peace?"
 - One commentary I read said "The temple itself is both a necessity and a danger: a necessity in that people need a place and a means for coming before God appropriately; a danger in that no institution can claim to house God." Going to the temple had become the answer for peace. But the temple is not a replacement for a real relationship with God. Has church today become a replacement for a relationship with God in any way? How can it instead be a place that strengthens our relationship with God?

REVERB- Verb- to put into action

(goal: to offer accountability for applying biblical truths to our lives)

What do you think Jesus does when he looks over the state of your own heart today? Does he weep and lament, that his message of repentance and forgiveness of sin has not penetrated your heart yet? Does he long for you to embrace his real message of peace? How will you do that this week?

You are encouraged to come to the stations of the cross with your small group this week (Sunday 6:30pm; Thursday 6pm starting with a potluck).

Optional: Children's Activity (at home or in the group time)

Take home your child's palm branch from church and hang it somewhere you can see it. Each day tear a leaf off the branch as you get closer to Good Friday. At the end of the week use the leaves to make a cross (see palm Sunday crafts at www.lucylearns.com)