

**Word notes Sunday 28/3/10 Tony Hodge**  
**Jesus: Servant King**

**Summary** (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: John 12:12-15 & 13:1-10

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, celebrated by a crowd of people waving palm fronds and laying these and garments along his path is in fulfilment and in reference to Old Testament scriptures recognising Jesus as a Conquering King (Zech. 9:9-10, Lev. 23:40, 2 Kings 9:13). That they shouted words from Psalm 118 (vv 24-27) confirms they knew fully what they were doing. Meanwhile the disciples are confused (Jn. 12:16).

A few days later when meeting for the festival meal to mark God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt, Jesus takes the place of the lowliest servant by washing their feet. Peter refuses at first, not understanding, but when Jesus says it's this or nothing he agrees and asked to be washed all over.

The disciples have not yet understood the true nature of the Messiah – a Servant King.

In between these two events Jesus enters the Temple and effectively closes it down by throwing out the money changes and dove sellers and not letting any merchandise be carried through the temple. The reference he makes to Jeremiah 7:11 comes from a context of judgement on Israel for religious observance rather than heart-felt sacrifice.

So the full train of events is; Christ the King enters Jerusalem, Judges the sacrifices made in the Temple as religious observance and closes down trade, then in private demonstrates his servant-hood to his disciples and establishes a commemorative meal to replace the one of Passover. Only then does he allow himself to be arrested and the path to the cross begins.

**Application** (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

The crowd wanted a king, someone to lead them to victory. This is not new in the history of Israel - read 1 Samuel 8:10-20

1. Discuss what they expected from a king and what the Lord told them they would get?
2. What characterises the relationship between king and the people in this example?

From John 13:1-10 what characterises the relationship between King Jesus and his people?

Read John 13:12-17 and discuss the following:

1. To whom is Jesus speaking and how does it apply to us?
2. If Jesus took the place of the lowliest servant how does that mean we should relate to others in the Kingdom?
3. In which context or relationships do you find it hard to be a foot-washing servant?

**Witness** (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

We're looking forward to the big celebration of the Christian year – Easter. Who can the cell invite to the guest meeting?