

What Have You Been Doing?

Foundations

John 12:12-19, 27-36

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- \* What did you hear?
- \* What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- \* What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

*Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?' Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.' After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.*

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

The timing of the line, "He suffered under Pontius Pilate" seems a bit off as we celebrate the pageantry of Palm Sunday. As the crowds joyfully acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, He makes a statement that confuses them, and therefore draws us into this confusing gap: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." **A year ago, we entered into this same type of gap. How did you respond to the question at this time last year, "God, what are you doing in all of this and how can I join you in it?"**

**One year later, how you can be guided in the following ways to join Him in making all things new?**

- \* **WHO is greater than WHAT** *What would it mean to organize our lives around people rather than our busy schedules: Who will I call today? Who can I reach out to?*
- \* **The church is not a building** *God has kept us connected in unique ways this past year, and we cannot default back to the idea of church as a building. What does this mean to you as you think about community?*
- \* **Our political views are often shaped more by the media than the Bible** *How much does this describe me? Do I really know what the Bible says about justice, the kingdom?*
- \* **Centrality of Grace** *How can I generously dispense grace to people in this increasingly legalistic world?*

*Heavenly Father, as we move into Holy Week, may we think about the disparity of Palm Sunday: in the Messiah for whom we rejoice, and the suffering we know to be imminent. Open our hearts to ways we can join You in the rebirth of something new instead of a default return to "normal." Amen*