

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: APalmx2017

Text: Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” 4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

5 “Tell the daughter of Zion,
 Look, your king is coming to you,
 humble, and mounted on a donkey,
 and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
 Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” 11 The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Word - I/S, Math - I, Body - S, Nature - I, People - I/S, Self - S

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
Word - Verbal/Linguistic MWD	Ε σ ε ι σ θ η - shook, turmoil Similar to seismic Echo of the Magi’s visit Vs. 10	Compare the use of the word <i>turmoil</i> in both the Magi’s visit and Jesus’ entrance. <i>Shaken</i> (as in ground shaking) appears here, at Jesus’ death, and his resurrection. Earth shattering moments, for certain!	“All Shook Up” might be a good title for a sermon! Or, “Who is This?” It could also be very interesting to read that line in a variety of ways. In the context of turmoil, read it as if you are startled.

		<i>Comparing and contrasting word use and meanings in passages attracts the attention of word smart people in your congregation.</i>	Or as if you were on the other side of town and had just hear the news and didn't know what was going on. WHO? Or as if you did see it and are surprised and a little skeptical anyone is making such a fuss over a Galilean. THIS?
Eye - Visual/Spatial	The entire passage is Eye smart! Not only the spectacle of a parade but the movement.		
Math - Logical/Mathematical D2		<u>Palm branches as symbol</u> of victory, triumph, peace and eternal life originating in the ancient Near East and Mediterranean world Jesus' entry is primarily a symbolic story functioning at many levels, few of which make sense without context. Why is donkey important? Why is putting branches and cloaks in the road a thing? What does "Hosanna" mean? Who is the Son of David? Like the episode of ST:TNG " <u>Darmok</u> ," or perhaps some <u>surreal cinema</u> , or <u>Destino</u> by Disney and Dali.	Does understanding the context of the event alter its meaning and practice? If we were to update some of the symbols, what would we replace, why, and with what?
Body - Kinesthetic MWD			You might actually process with palms (protest signs), calling "Hosanna".
Musical			
Natural D2	Vs. 8 branches John specifies palms, Matthew uses branches.	<i>Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows</i> movie where Holmes rides a pony	

	<p>Mark uses leafy branches. Luke has no branches.</p> <p>Donkey and colt - vs 2, 5</p> <p>What better symbol of Jesus' relational theology than riding a mother donkey with her nursing colt by her side?</p>	<p>instead of horse, because horses are "dangerous at both ends and shifty in the middle." The scene presents the obvious contrast of power and dignity.</p>	
<p>People - Interpersonal</p> <p>MWD</p>	<p>As per turmoil in vs 10: "A radically subverted model of power exercised in compassion challenges the temple system and Rome in its day and their equivalents in our own, around us and within us." ~William Loader</p>	<p>Palm Sunday is a protest march. Think about how powerfully dangerous it would be to equate this event with the March to Montgomery, or the Million Man March, or the world wide protests on January 21 of this year. Jesus was coming in to "shake up the system".</p>	<p>A very radical concept: instead of Palms, wave protest signs with the words "Save us" (hosanna) or "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" printed on them. (Palms were a radical statement in their day - they were given to victors; we've just lost the immediacy of them over 2K years.) This is quite risky; if you are not willing to split your congregation further or sacrifice your job, then simply talk about how these green fronds are symbols of protest for the people of the day.</p>
<p>Self - Intrapersonal</p> <p>D2</p>			<p>What does it mean for you to call out "Save us?" Who are you calling to? What are you asking to be saved from? Is it just you or your family, congregation, nation, world?</p>