



Life Group Notes: 'Way Makers – Making Room for More'

Tuesday 5th February 2019

READ MATTHEW 21:1-15

1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village in front 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, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" 10 And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" 11 And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee." 12 And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. 13 He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers." 14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant. (ESV)

INTRODUCTION:

God is the miracle way maker but sometimes we must make an intentional decision to be part of making a way for God to move in our lives. God chooses to use people who are willing and obedient, and it takes action on our behalf to see His purposes fulfilled. It's not about waiting for the perfect conditions – sometimes God makes a way in our worst moments when we trust Him.

When we allow Holy Spirit in our lives, He gives us instructions, so we become part of His plan. Purpose is released when we walk in communion with Jesus and obey Him, even in the small things.

John the Baptist was a way maker and prepared the people to receive Jesus (John 1:23). In the same way, if our hearts are ready, we can all be a highway and conduit for God's glory. God has pre-defined the plan and purpose for our life to be a way maker and world changer!

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE:

- 1) In Matthew 21:1-3, Jesus gave unusual instructions to his disciples to go ahead of him where they would find a donkey tied up and ready for him. Verse 6 says: *"the disciples went and did what Jesus had directed them."*
 - Have you ever felt God speak to you and ask you to do something unusual or that didn't make sense? Why do you think he does this? Please discuss.
- 2) The donkey was tied up and may have seemed very insignificant but played an important part in history. Not only was there a prophetic destiny for the donkey spoken about in Zechariah (see Matthew 21 v 4-5), he also became a carrier of the presence of Jesus. We are more than a donkey and God wants to use us in his story!
 - How should this truth shape the way you think about your own personal value and significance and how can you apply it to your life on a daily basis? Please discuss.

Also read 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

- 3) There were so many different responses to Jesus. Some welcomed him with worship (v8-9) and some were deeply offended (v15). Even amongst people being shocked and angry at Jesus overturning the tables in the temple (v12-13), other people were miraculously healed (v14).

Making room for more of Jesus should be our top priority and sometimes that means de-cluttering our lives to make way for what God wants to do.

- What things do you think you need to let go of to make more room for Jesus?
(Be honest! God's purpose is found in our humility).

CLOSING REFLECTION & PRAYER:

Pray together that:

- God will help us let go of things that get in the way of making more room for Jesus
- We will allow God to use us more as way makers and world changers for his Glory.