

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Zechariah 9:9-10; Matthew 21:1-17

Sunday, March 30, 2014

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why do you think God inspired many different people in the Hebrew Scriptures to prophecy the coming of the Messiah? [From Zechariah 9:9-10]

When there are many prophecies, each revealing only a part of what the Messiah would do when He came, it would be impossible for anyone but the true Messiah to fulfill them and only with God’s help. Combine the facts of fulfilled prophecy with Jesus’ deeds of power, wonders, and signs; along with His teaching with authority, and His resurrection from the dead after a cruel death by crucifixion and God has given us more than ample evidence to believe Jesus is the Son of God and Messiah.

2. What, if any, reason did Jesus give His two disciples when He told them to go into the village to get the donkey and the colt?

“The Lord needs them.” His reason was the same for them and any who would ask them why they were taking the donkey and colt. For people of faith, that is the only reason they need; but remember, Jesus had given the disciples many reasons over three years of ministry to believe that He was the Lord. He might have also explained that He planned to fulfill the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9. Jesus never asked anyone to believe without sufficient evidence to believe; for example, He appeared many times to different people after God raised Him from the dead so there would be good and sufficient evidence and reasons to believe He was raised from the dead.

3. How did the crowds address Jesus when they cheered for Him as He entered the city? How did people in the city describe who Jesus was?

They called Him “the Son of David,” which meant “the Messiah.” They called Him “the one who comes in the name of the Lord;” He had worked many miracles and taught in the name of the Lord. After He entered Jerusalem, the people said He was “the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

4. Where did Jesus go first when He entered the city? What did He do there?

He went to the temple, God's house, not to King Herod's palace or to the Roman authorities. He cleansed the temple by casting out the robbers at the money changing tables. The temple was His house, and He had the right to cleanse it.

5. What did Jesus say the temple should be called? Should this name be applied to churches today? How well does this name describe your church: too much, too little, just right?

The temple should be called a House of Prayer. Yes.

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