

SERMON STUDY NOTES

Prepared by
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"Lamb Selection Sunday"
Christ's Church of Marion County
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Lamb Selection Day

Matthew 21:1-11 NIV

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

“Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Triumphal Entry

Donkey represent humility and peace

COVID 19

61,099 people in the USA died from influenza (2017-18 Season, CDC)

9,600,000 worldwide died of cancer (2018, WHO)

770,000 people died of HIV-AIDS (2018, WHO)

3,100,000 children worldwide died of poverty (WHO)

40,000,000 to 50,000,000 died from the leading cause of death worldwide:
abortion (WHO)

Why would a loving God allow such suffering?

Because God loves us enough to give us free will.

Max Lucado

The Bible reads like this. One “aha story” after another. Prisons are actually provisions. Scandals are actually solutions. Tragedy at eye level is actually triumph at God’s level.

Genesis 2:16 NIV

And the LORD God commanded the man, “**You are free** to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Genesis 3:1 NIV

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

Genesis 3:2-3 NIV

The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and **you must not touch it**, or you will die.’”

Genesis 3:4-5 NIV

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that

when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Satan’s MO: Method of Operation

Questions God’s Word

Denies God’s Word

Reverses God’s Word

Genesis 3:6 NIV

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Death means separation between two things.

Francis Schaeffer’s Five Areas of Separation:

1) *Psychological Separation*

Genesis 3:7 NIV

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

2) *Spiritual Separation*

3) *Social Separation*

4) *Physical Separation*

5) *Environmental Separation*

Genesis 3:17-18 NIV

“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.

It will produce **thorns and thistles** for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

John 19:2 NIV

The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head.

Romans 8:18 NIV

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Romans 8:23b NLT

We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

Romans 8:20-23a NLT

Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering.

Eager Anticipation: breathless with anticipation, waiting with joy and excitement, gazing eagerly as with an outstretched neck

An earthly dilemma which begs for a heavenly solution.

Genesis 22:8 NIV

“God himself will provide the lamb.”

John 1:29 NIV

John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Revelation 5:12 NIV

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”

Jesus reverses the curse of sin by giving us a hope that cannot be shaken.

It's Lamb Selection Day..... God has made his choice known. Have you? Will you choose Jesus?

Small Group Study Notes

**Prepared by
Small Groups Pastor
Ray Westman**

Small Group Study

“Lamb Selection Day”

Before you begin your home study, I would urge you to go on online and listen to David’s sermon one more time. It’s full of information and insight into these verses and will help you in this Small Group lesson. Go to ccomc.org. “Lamb Selection Day”.

Read: Exodus 12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight.

This was known as “Lamb Selection Day”, today we call it Palm Sunday.

Read: Matthew 21:1-11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them,

and he will send them right away.” 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: 5 “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” 10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” 11 The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Discussion notes: This is known as the “Triumphant Entry” of Jesus Christ. He came as the King of the Jews but as David said the Jewish people thought He was an earthly King coming to save them from Roman rule. But as we know today, His Kingdom is a spiritual kingdom, not an earthly kingdom.

Next David speaks of a broken world, full of disease, greed and suffering and he asks, “How do we explain it?” and he says before we can answer we need to know the problem. We have to know the problem before we can give a solution.

Question: So what is the problem?

Discussion notes: The problem is that God loved us enough to give us free will.

In Genesis 2:16-17 The Lord God commanded the man, “You are **free** to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for **when** you eat from it you will certainly die.”

David said we must be able to choose. We are free to accept God and His will or, we are free to deny Him. If we didn't have a choice, we would be robots doing Gods will mindlessly and without love. That's why we are free, free to love or free to hate and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was the test.

But this causes a bunch of problems. For instance a murderer can negate my free will. It wouldn't be my will to die, but he could make that choice for me. This COVID-19 isn't anyone's will. I, like you, have never willed death or destruction, theft, divorce or any other affliction. So why do we have it?

David asked the question; "Why would a loving God allow such suffering? And the answer isn't external it's internal. We lift up our arm and point our finger and say, "out there"... why is there so much suffering out there... why does God allow it to happen out there... when in fact, we are the cause of it all. We brought sin into the world and God allows it because He loves us and wants us to make a choice, Him or death, Him or eternal suffering.

We say God and sin can't exist together but they did. Jesus came to earth and lived among sin and sinners for 33 years. He didn't come to abolish sin; He didn't come to end suffering and sickness and disease, He came to save us from it.

Discuss with your group what this means to you and how we might, as believer, ease the suffering within the world today?

Answer: One possible answer to the question is by reaching out to people and giving offering them hope through Jesus. There are many other ways too please discuss what you can do.

Read Genesis 3:1-5 The Fall

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from **any tree** in the garden?’” 2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and **you must not touch it, or you will die.**” 4 “**You will not certainly die,**” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will **be like God,** knowing good and evil.”

David used these verses to illustrate Satan’s MO: Method of Operation.

Discuss the lies Satan told to Eve and how easy it is for us, even today, to be fooled by his lies. David said there is a hook inside Satan's bait. Talk about how he **denies** and **reverses** God's word in these verses. Find the hook.

This is why there is suffering in this world. This is the reason there is death in this world and death means separation. David spoke of the five areas of separation: Psychological, spiritual, social, physical and environmental.

Discuss the effects of sin and death on each of these areas of our life.

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Genesis 3:17-18 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

These verses tell us of the consequences of sin.

Discuss: David used the following verses (found in his sermon notes) to tell us the good news, that Jesus came to reverse the curse of sin.

Look each one up and **discuss the good news!**

John 19:2, Romans 8:18, Romans 8:20-23, Genesis 22:8 and

John 1:29

If this is your first time using the sermon notes I provide for small group studies they are the same notes you would receive as a Small Group teacher. As you can see, they are easy to read, self-explanatory and they will allow you to teach a small group anywhere at any time.

If you would like to know more about these notes, small groups and teaching opportunities just give me a call. Ray Westman 352-208-9023, or Email me at: ray@ccomc.org

R. Westman April 2020