

SERMON NOTES Sunday 27 September

sunnysidechurch

Bible passages: Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-end and Matthew 21.23-32

Introduction

- Palm Sunday events happen between last week's Gospel reading and this
- All centred on the temple; temple controversy the immediate reason for Jesus' death

Jesus challenges the assumptions of the Jewish leaders

- Question trying to back Jesus into a corner
- Jesus responds with question that links his ministry to that of John the Baptist and reveals their true attitudes

Jesus has come to form a new community

- Vineyard a well understood image of God's people; Jewish leaders assume they are the ones with authority in it
- New community is one with Jesus at the centre and entered by repentance and obedience to him

Jesus' new community

- People of Israel regularly said that they wanted to do the will of God and didn't. Ezekiel's call to repentance one of many to call them back from sin to life with God
- First shall be last and the last shall be first: those who repent and obey shall enjoy being part of God's kingdom

Conclusion: love one another this week

Jesus said: 'If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – the Spirit of truth. (John 14.15-17)

Some questions to discuss

1. What are some of the questions you have been asked about Jesus?
2. Read Matthew 21.23-32. What do you notice?
3. What can we learn from this passage about how we respond to questions about Jesus and our faith?
4. Jesus asks: 'What do you think?' as the introduction to his parable. What do you think?
5. Why does Jesus link obedience to belief?
6. Read Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-end. How does this passage deepen our understanding of Jesus' parable?
7. What might Jesus be asking us to do this week? What might get in our way?
8. Is there one thing that you are taking away from these passages? Is there something you need to do in response? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something God wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do.

Jesus said: 'If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – the Spirit of truth. (John 14.15-17)

Why not give thanks to God for the gift of his Spirit and pray for his help as we seek to follow him faithfully this week?

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