

# Family Devotional

From April 9, 2017

**Review:** Last week we talked about not getting caught up in the crowd but stopping to think about is this something I want to take part in? Usually we think about not following the crowd when it is leading into a negative action, but we can easily get caught up in the crowd and go through the motions of doing positive things without really knowing why we are doing them.

## Read: Mark 11:7-10

- Have you ever experienced a crowd like this, that gets super excited and it seems like everyone is a huge fan? Think about sporting events, concerts or parades.
- In the passage, what were the people shouting?
- What do you think this means?

The disciples and some of the first people to start the praising probably knew what they were doing and the truth they were proclaiming. They knew Jesus and were displaying a beautiful act of worship by publically proclaiming who Jesus is, but it says the people that came before and the people that followed were also joining the chant. Now some of these people had probably heard Jesus teaching and may have even seen someone healed or been healed themselves, so these words could be coming from the heart. However, I suspect that for some this may have been their first time to see Jesus or hear about Jesus first hand. There were many visitors in Jerusalem for Passover. They were getting snippets of the story and wanted to join in the fun. However, a few days later many of the same people were probably found in another crowd chanting something very different.

## Read: Mark 15:6-15

- What was the crowd chanting this time?
- Who stirred up the crowd?
- Did the crowd have an answer to Pilates' question in verse 14? What does this tell us about the crowd?
- Do you think those that really knew and believed that Jesus was the Messiah were so easily turned as those that were just joining in the first crowd? Why or why not?

Jesus was never as concerned with what the crowds were saying as he was with what individual people were believing about him. Jesus longs for us to worship him, but not because we think were supposed to or because everyone else is, but because in our hearts we truly believe that he is worthy of our worship.

## Read: Mark 15:37-39

The centurion was a Roman Soldier, who was with those carrying out the crucifixion, but when he stepped back and watched as Jesus sacrificed himself, he uttered the truest words. When we take time to focus more on Jesus then what the crowds around us are saying, it becomes much easier to see Jesus for who he truly is.

**Remember:** Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on Matthew 16:15-16 this week.

Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"  
Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

How would you answer Jesus' question?

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

**Respond:** "Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to earth and taking our punishment on the cross. Help us to focus more on you and what you are saying than the crowds around us.....Amen."