FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Review: Last week we talked about not getting caught up in the crowd but stopping to think about this something I want to talk to you about is 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 publicly 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 Pilate’s question in verse 14? What does this tell us about the crowd?
• Do you think that those 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 individuals believed about him. Jesus longs for us to worship him, but not because we think we are 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 Solider, who was with those carrying out the crucifixion, but when he stepped back and watched as Jesus sacrificed himself, he was so moved by what Jesus was doing that he said, “Surely this man was a righteous man.” 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 Joshua 1:9 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?

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”

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The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. 
Thy kingdom come. 
Thy will be done 
on earth as it is in heaven. 
Give us this day our daily bread, 
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, 
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. 
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. 
Amen.

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. 
And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord. 
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; 
and was crucified, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the world and the dead. 
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.