

"Leadership 101: *Harnessed Strength*"

by Rev. John C. Tittle

Scripture Reading: Mark 11: 1-10 NRSV

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Discussion Questions:

1. Questions or observations about the Scripture reading?
2. Who are some of the most powerful leaders in world history? What strategies did they use to attain and retain power?
3. Napoleon famously said this of Jesus:

I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlamagne, and I, founded empires. But upon what did we rest the creations of our genius? *Upon force.* Jesus Christ founded his empire upon love; and at this hour millions of people would die for Him... Everything in Christ astonishes me...I search in vain in history to find the similar to Jesus Christ, or anything that can approach the gospel. *What is it that's so different about Christ's leadership?*

4. In what ways did Jesus correct the crowds understanding of him? What are some ways that we can open ourselves up to having our assumptions about Christ shaken up a little bit?
5. The disciples didn't understand the significance of what the donkey-riding Jesus was doing until later. Only upon reading the Scriptures after the crucifixion and resurrection did they realize what was written about him all along. *Can you think of a time in your life that you realized much later the significance of something that happened to you earlier?*
6. What is Jesus teaching you about leadership this Palm Sunday?