



Week 1

Sermon Title: Give Us Eyes to See

Sermon Text: Matthew 20:29-21:11

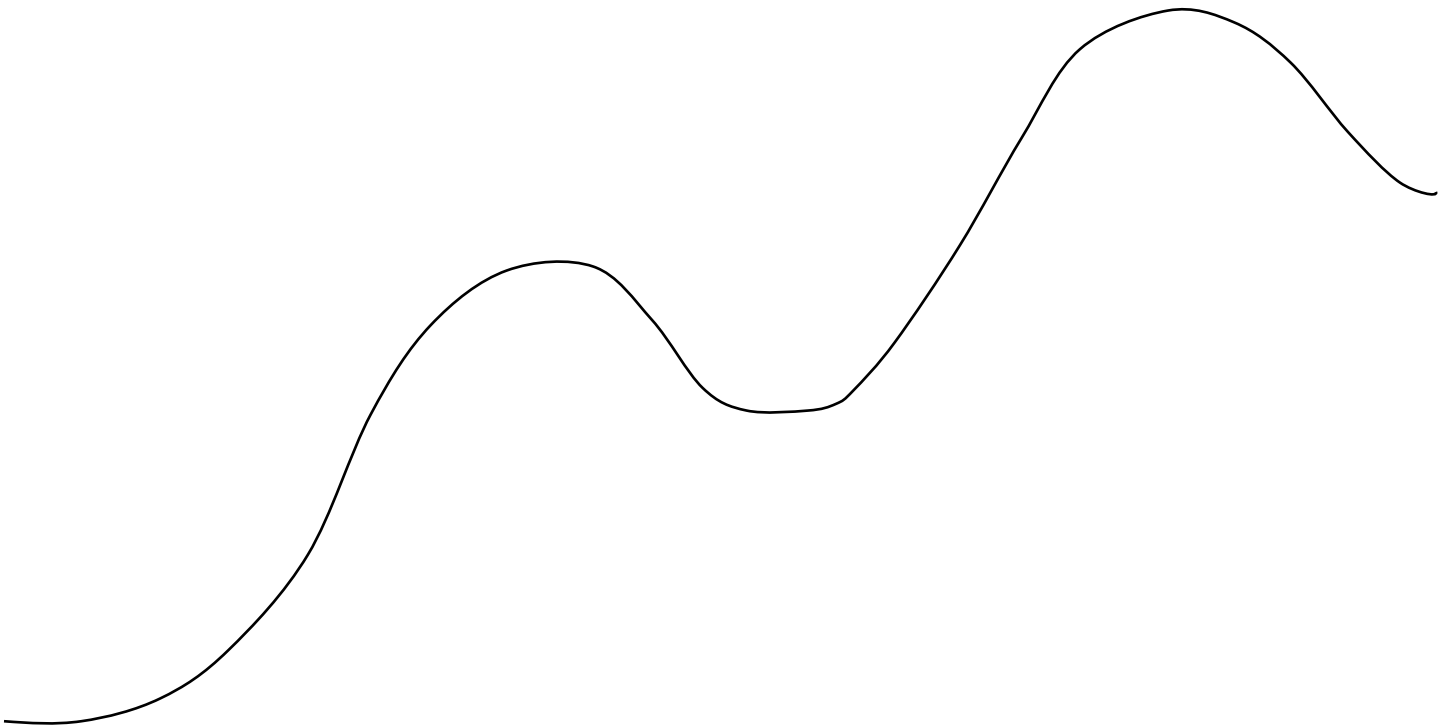
Group Week of: March 26, 2023

Sermon Date: April 02, 2023

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	Zacchaeus – Luke 19:1-10
Day 2	Seeing without Seeing – Isaiah 6:8-13
Day 3	The Blind See – Matthew 11:1-6
Day 4	Spiritually Blind – Ephesians 4:17-24
Day 5	The Procession – Psalm 118:22-29

The Text

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Fill in Plot Arch** by writing down verses in the story as points on the plot line to help show you where the main lessons in the story are.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.



Textual Questions

- 1) What is the message that God and Matthew are speaking through this text?
- 2) Why might Matthew precede the story of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem with the story of two blind men?
- 3) What is the difference between the crowds with Jesus and the people already in the city of Jerusalem?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Jesus enters Jerusalem for the Passover Festival along with hundreds of thousands of other Jews from all over the world. Most of these Jews would be traveling from Galilee, where Jesus did the bulk of His earthly ministry. What do you think the crowds were thinking as they excitedly walked with Jesus towards the city of Jerusalem?

- 2) In the crowd's excitement, the pleas for mercy from two blind beggars were an unwelcome annoyance. Have you ever been excited about something good, and allowed that excitement to get in the way of giving mercy to those who need mercy? How do we keep from being too excited (or busy) to slow down and be compassionate to those in need?

- 3) Although the men were blind, they clearly saw who Jesus was. What does this tell us about what it means to be able to *truly see*? Where does the ability to truly see come from? Is there anything we can do to gain it?

- 4) Before entering the city, Jesus sends his disciples on an important mission to acquire a never ridden (Mark 11:2) colt. This, as Matthew teaches, is done so that Jesus might fulfill Zechariah 9:9. Read Zechariah 9:9-14 and discuss with your group about how Jesus fulfills this prophecy and if there is anything in this prophecy we still await.

- 5) The people who have been traveling with Jesus to Jerusalem (the crowds from Galilee) begin to take off their cloaks and cut down palm branches to celebrate Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem. They are filled with excitement, hope, and expectation of Jesus as their conquering King and Messiah. In what ways are they right to be so excited? And in what ways do they have it wrong?

- 6) Of all the things you hope Christ will do for you, which do you pray for most, or which are you most excited for? Do these hopes and dreams align with who Christ truly is and what He truly came to do?

- 7) Although the blind men knew Jesus was the Messiah, the people of the city of Jerusalem instead asked, "Who is this?" Though they had eyes, they could not see. As we head towards Easter, who is someone you can pray that God will give "eyes to see" Jesus as Messiah? Lift that person up in prayer this week, and if it makes sense, invite them to come to church with you this coming Sunday.