

HIS|STORY
Small Group Questions • Week of 09/10/17
Saving Salvation • John 12:9-19

Getting Started

Name as many product recalls as you can.

The Big Idea

Jesus is recalling the idea of salvation that many had embraced. He arrives to save them from their idea of salvation.

Digging Deeper (Read John 12:9-19)

1) The masses greet Jesus by waving palm branches and singing “Save Now!” The palm branch was a symbol of national sovereignty.

- a) From their perspective, what was the big problem they needed saving from?
- b) We can get so focused on the “little salvations” that we want in everyday life that we sometimes neglect the big salvation. What are some common “little salvations” that people seek God for while neglecting the big one?

2) Jesus doesn’t provide the smaller salvation for the Jews (i.e., salvation from Rome). This was to focus their attention on a greater salvation. Sometimes God doesn’t ‘save us’ from our smaller problems to do a deeper work of “saving.” Can you think of Biblical or personal examples of this?

3) The crowds are singing “Hosanna,” which meant for many, “*save us from the pagan people around me.*” Or, “*Sick em’ God!*” Jesus corrects this by approaching on a donkey instead of a warhorse while quoting an Old Testament passage about not needing to fear.

- a) If the good guys were the Jews and the bad guys were the Romans, why wouldn’t this be salvation?
- b) If the Jews turn out to be enemies of God like the Romans, why would this approach be wonderful news?

4) Sometimes we think that our biggest problem is the evil outside of us. But the Bible teaches that our biggest problem is the evil inside of us.

- a) What are some passages in the Bible that teach this?
- b) How does this change what we mean by “save us Lord”?
- c) How does this affect how we view people in our lives?
- d) How does this help to explain why God delays his judgment?

5) Being honest about our sin and confessing them to God and others often feels horrible.

- a) Why?

b) Daily Jesus approaches our weaknesses and sins gently instead of in judgment. This should cause us to sing "Save Now" with praise in pleasure. How does the gospel make honesty and confession a source of praise and pleasure?

Putting It Into Practice

6) How can you be more intentional with confession of sin and praise to God?