

Examine the Lamb 2018-03-11

John 12:12-16

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵ "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.

We all have people we admire: Superhero's, TV characters, athletes, parents.

- Emulate their dress, speech/sayings, actions.
 - Eventually their imperfections exposed. All sinners
- Today focus on flaws more than honorable aspects....bad news.
 - Wrongly believe by pulling others down, we are lifting self up.
 - Even flaws of Superman & Batman emphasized.
- One when examined only proves to be perfect, Jesus Christ our Passover Lamb.

Passover ("to spare") annual week long retelling of how God through last of the 10 plagues delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt. Exodus 12:11b-14, 13:10

- Remembrance of past and prep for future coming of Messiah.
 - Passover precisely foreshadowed both events of Jesus Christ's crucifixion (Atonement) & exact time each would occur....1,500 years later.

Begin with what we call Palm Sunday (in 2 weeks) in non-Jewish community.

- 5 days before "national" lamb sacrificed for sins of Israel, it was chosen by high priest and led into Jerusalem. Exodus 12:5a, Luke 19:35-42, Psalm 118:25-26
 - Jesus entered Jerusalem the same day, probably right behind High Priest's procession as Lamb of God. John 12:12-19
- Cheering multitude not understand/unaware that they were choosing Lamb of God to sacrifice, not king who'd liberate from Roman rule.
 - Jesus wept, Jews looking for political savior not spiritual Savior.
 - We do similar: Jesus alleviate discomfort not change lives.

Lamb publicly inspected 4 days for blemish/imperfections then sacrificed.

- Only perfect, unblemished sacrifice acceptable to holy God for sins of His people.....Heart of Gospel. Hebrews 10:11-14, 1 Peter 1:18-19,

- Jesus, only truly perfect Passover Lamb, was the single and final sacrifice for Christian's sin for all time.

Lost: examine the perfect Lamb of God....who He is & His claim as only One who can rescue lost from penalty of sin. Romans 5:10, 1 Peter 2:22, 2 Corinthians 5:21, John 14:6

- Greatest event in history is the foremost, preeminent evidence to truth of His claims & confirmation of His perfection.... Resurrection. Gospel
Lamb of God who rescues lost from penalty of sin also rescues Christian from power of sin and transforms us into "new creations". Ephesians 5:27, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 12:2
- Christian: perfect Lamb of God does not reject you for your imperfections, failures, brokenness, sin.
 - He continually loves us when we're continually unlovable, faithful when we're unfaithful...because that's who He is.
- Examine the perfect Lamb of God in the Word, you'll find no flaws
 - You'll see how patient, kind, good, gentle, just, wise, full of grace & mercy, true/truth, holy, loving.....go on & on endlessly.
- You'll grow in love, admiration for Jesus and be transformed into His image (mature spiritually) because we tend to become like persons we admire.
 - Desire to talk, act, think like Jesus. Philippeans 4:8-9, Ephesians 3:14-21

Examine Lamb of God: You'll find He without flaws, beautiful & truly worthy of emulation.