



Telling the Story of Holy Week Through Symbols

by Rick Gates

Read and discuss the scripture connected with each symbol. Then discuss the questions for each symbol.



Palms John 12:12-13

"The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!'"

- What do you think some people in the crowd thought Jesus had come to do in Jerusalem?
- What do you think you would have seen and heard that day as Jesus entered Jerusalem?



Oil Mark 14:3-9

"While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, 'Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.' And they scolded her. But Jesus said, 'Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'"

- What do you think Jesus means when he tells his disciples that the woman has prepared him for burial?
- Why do you think the woman did this for Jesus?



Basin, Towel and Water John 13:3-5

"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him."

- Why would Jesus act like a servant and do something like this for the disciples?
- What do you think Jesus wants the disciples to learn from his actions?



Bread Matthew 26:26

"While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.'"

- Why does Jesus say about the bread, "This is my body"?
- How can a loaf of bread represent Christ?