

## Gospel Reflection

*(This Gospel reflection and the "Questions of the Week" were prepared by the OLA Student Council, 2007-08)*

What is cool? Is it cool to lead or to follow? Is it cool to follow the crowd in order to be accepted? Or is it cool to stand up for what is right?

So much of our daily life is consumed by taking part in earthly "cool" things. But what is cool in God's eyes? To God, "cool" is not the right clothes or being part of the "in crowd." To God, "cool" is being willing to sacrifice ourselves, as Jesus did. Jesus never gave up; even on the cross; he was willing to forgive those who had betrayed him. He never felt the need to prove others wrong. He did not need to hurt others in order to put himself up.

Are we sometimes like Judas, willing to betray our friends for personal wealth? Are we sometimes like Pilate, afraid to stand up for what is right? Are we sometimes like the crowd, willing to go along with what is popular but not necessary right?

We are called to be like Jesus, to forgive and to accept even in the midst of our own suffering. We must lay aside our self-seeking ways in order to accept His self-giving. Jesus' life was not about saving himself, but about saving others.

No matter whose attitude you reflect in this gospel, God loves you and will forgive you. Because in His eyes, you are always cool.

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

*Matthew 21:1-11*

L Q B K C I M G T P D B U  
T E O O P V E H R I F R J  
U E L E W G O U V Q H A U  
J T H C D S Z A X N X N D  
S E B P A Z D I E B N C O  
K V R N O F U K O T X H D  
A H N U O R A I H N U E G  
O A E N S H P D A O R S Y  
L R O K S A D E S S E L B  
C S C I E A L C R O W D H  
E J L N N E F E H V I I R  
R X K G E G M H M Z M L U  
R D B E T H P H A G E Q V

**Find these words from the Gospel passage.**

BETHPHAGE	BLESSED	BRANCHES
CLOAKS	COLT	CROWD
HOSANNA	JERUSALEM	KING
MEEK	PROPHET	ROAD
SHAKEN	SON OF DAVID	ZION

## Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion  
3/16/2008*

*Matthew 2:1-11  
Faith-Sharing  
Questions of the Week*



***Our Lady of the Assumption***

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Claremont, CA  
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## Call to Prayer

*We begin by calling upon God:*

**In the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the  
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with  
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

**The Word of God:** *Matthew 2:1-11*

### ***The Gospel according to Matthew***

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem and came to **Bethphage** on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, 'The master has need of them.' Then he will send them at once."

This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: "***Say to daughter Zion,*** 'Behold, your King comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them.

The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: "**Hosanna to the Son of David;** blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest."

And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked "Who is this?" And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

### ***The Gospel of the Lord***



TRULY, THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD!

### **Gospel Glossary**

**Bethphage:** A village near Bethany that was a stop on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho.

***Say to Daughter Zion:*** Matthew is quoting the book of the prophet Zechariah

**"Hosanna to the Son of David":** The crowd sings Psalm 118

## Faith Sharing

### **Questions of the Week**

- What are the things we do to silence the noise of self-seeking and to listen to the voice of self-giving?
- When was the last time you betrayed a friend? How did you make it right?
- When and why do you choose to "go along with the crowd"?

## Closing Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God,

You have given the human race Jesus Christ, our Savior, as a model of humility. He fulfilled your will by becoming human and dying on the cross. Help us bear witness to you by following his example and make us worthy to share in his resurrection.

We ask in his name,

Amen.

**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**