

Finding Ourselves in the Story

I. It's no wonder so many movies have been made out of the passion story. There are plenty of great characters and drama. One day the Lord is welcomed to Jerusalem with great cheers of, "Hosanna!" and a couple of days later, shouts of "Crucify him!" There are twelve declarations of loyalty one minute, "Surely it is not I," and a few hours later, "I do not know the man." Even the Pharisees were divided about the Lord. Pilate, known to be a cruel tyrant, seemed momentarily unsure of himself and finally followed his wife's advice to wash his hand of the situation. Only the Lord was serene amid the emotional tug of war. He kept his focus on doing his Father's will.

Concl. If we look hard enough at the gospel, we can see our own faces in the crowd. Confusion and fear sometimes cause us to make stupid decisions just as some of the men and women of today's gospel. We have been *betrayed* and been *betrayers* of one another. The disciples represent women and men who throughout the years struggle with professing our faith in the Lord and trying to do *God's* will rather than *ours*. Yet we know something Judas forgot: **we can be forgiven**. It is message we as the community of disciples must remind each other of constantly. I encourage all of us – myself included – to cut down on a lot of our activities this week where we can. This is no ordinary week. It the week we were given new life through the Lord's love for us. Do this so we can leave room for the Lord to enter, not Jerusalem, but our hearts.