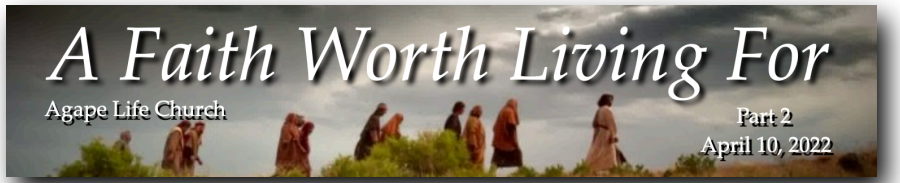

For my determined purpose is that I may know Him *that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him,* ***perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly,*** *and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed in spirit into His likeness even to His death*. Philippians 3:10 Amplified

Knowing Whom You Follow

Jesus is no ordinary man.

There has never been, nor will there ever be anyone like Him. He was born of a virgin, He grew up in a small town, worked as a carpenter, didn't own a home, was misunderstood by His family, hated by enemies, **yet loved by the multitudes**. His teachings were revolutionary and His miracles undeniable. He claimed nothing less than equality with God and proclaimed Himself as the long expected Messiah. Jesus never left sitting on the fence as an option.

Jesus came teaching no ordinary message. Matthew 9:35-36
Jesus loved people with an extraordinary love.
Jesus encountered people with extraordinary methods.

Seeing Him better enables us to _____ better.

For much of Jesus' ministry He urged people to be quiet about who He was. When He healed He told people not to say anything, when He confronted demons who recognized Him as the Son of God He commanded them to be silent. It wasn't time for Him to openly declare Himself as the Messiah. **On Palm Sunday the time had come.** Palm Sunday is recorded in all four gospels.

The Significance of His Triumphant Entry

This had been prophesied about by Zechariah over 500 years earlier, *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!* ***Behold, your king is coming to you;*** *righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."* Zechariah 9:9

Core Point: God in sending His Son, sent no ordinary man to solve the problems of mankind. Jesus brought God's message, with God's supernatural methods and showed the extraordinary compassion of the kingdom of God.

Rulers usually came as conquerors riding on a prancing stallion. Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a white charger, but on a lowly beast of burden, **not on a horse as a symbol of power, but on a colt of a donkey as a symbol of humility.** He is the peaceful King of the people of God, not a revolutionary with political ambitions.

Hosanna, they shouted. *Hosanna*. **This Hebrew word means "_____."** They were welcoming their King. **Although most didn't realize it, they were honoring the King of heaven.** They were honoring the King of kings and Lord of lords. They were honoring the King that would triumph over death. **They were singing praises to the Lamb of God, who would take away the sins of the world.**

The crowd's spreading garments and palm branches on the road, as was done in triumphal processions, is a hopeful acknowledgment of Jesus' kingship. Many were anticipating that Jesus' was coming to set up His reign in Israel's capital.

It speaks of His glorious second coming. **Revelation 19:11-16**

In His second coming, Jesus doesn't ride a lowly donkey – **He is seated on a white horse.** His righteousness is brighter than the sun, but this time He isn't bringing salvation but judgment, not peace, but vengeance and His rule and reign.

The Invitation to Be His Disciple

His pathway led to the cross. Jesus shows us ***a faith worth living for, is a faith worth _____.*** His path is our path, His victory is our victory, but most importantly ***His cross is our cross too.***

For to this you were called, ***because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.*** 1 Peter 2:21

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be ***my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily*** *and follow me.* Luke 9:23

The greatest mistake is ignoring and avoiding the cross. Many search for triumphant living but refuse to live a crucified life.
The cross is the mark of the disciple **and the means** of discipleship.

*My old identity has been co-crucified with Christ and no longer lives. And now the essence of this new life is no longer mine, for the Anointed One lives His life through me—****we live in union as one!*** *My new life is empowered by the faith of the Son of God who loves me so much that He gave Himself for me,* ***dispensing His life into mine!*** Galatians 2:20 TPT

Core Statement: My determined purpose is to know Jesus my Savior and Lord, in a deeper and deeper way. I respond to His invitations, and enjoy His constant companionship as I walk His path, and take up my cross daily, serving Him.