# Sunday 13th April – Connect Group Notes

## Read Matthew 21:1-17

1. **Following Jesus' Instructions**
What stands out to you about the way the disciples respond to Jesus' unusual request to fetch the donkey? (v6)
Why do you think they follow so readily and wholeheartedly?
What might we learn from their response?
2. **The Crowd’s Response**
What do the actions of the crowd—laying down cloaks and waving branches, shouting praises—tell us about their attitude toward Jesus?
In what ways is this an example of humble worship?
3. **Public Praise**
Earlier in the Gospels, Jesus often told people not to speak about him publicly. Now, he openly accepts public praise.
What do you think has changed at this point in his ministry?
What are the consequences of this public recognition?
4. **Worship Inside and Out**
How do the praises of the crowd outside the city compare with what’s happening in the temple?
What does this contrast reveal about true worship?
5. **Jesus’ Critique of the Temple**
Why does Jesus drive out those in the temple and speak so strongly against what he sees there?
What do his actions and his words (in this passage and in Matthew 23:13–39) tell us about what matters most to him?
6. **Two Crowds, Two Responses**
On Sunday, Andy compared the crowd that welcomed Jesus with those in the temple, using these contrasts:
* **Follow wholeheartedly** vs **Empty ritual**
* **Humble worship** vs **Self-seeking worship**
* **Praising publicly** vs **Exclusive praise**

Which crowd do you think we are more like—both individually and as a church?
What might need to change in us to become more like the crowd that welcomed Jesus?