

Where's Your Chair?

Mark 11 1-11



Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
Psalm 118:19-20

Praising:

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in
the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in
the highest.

Lord we lift up your name, with
hearts full of praise.

Be exalted, O Lord my God,
hosanna in the highest.

Reading:

Mark 11:1-11
Palm Sunday

So the donkey will be sent back immediately – the Lord is quite clear about that. The preparations are methodical and the arrival itself rousing and upbeat. But whatever the celebration and party-mood of this scene, Jesus knew it would be short-lived. As are so many of life's front-stage, spotlight moments. There might be a rush of pleasure or even

pride that comes from being toasted and feted once in a while, but for most of us the platform experiences of life don't come our way very often and we're glad enough about that. Receiving adulation was certainly not top of Jesus' agenda. You have to wonder, as inevitable and unavoidable as his welcome in Jerusalem turned out to be, might Jesus' attitude to events that day possibly have been: let's get this over with, I've got real work to do?

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we think of those

- who seek self-value in other people's honour, praise and devotion
- who are tempted to create idols, put people on pedestals and mis-direct their worship
- who have never known what it is to receive appreciation, affirmation and encouragement

Father: thank you for the ones who build me up, pat me on the back, and tell me I've done well. But I know the resolve and confidence for the really important things come from you. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 02 December 2015