

*Guidelines for Leaders:*

*If you aren't doing so already, encourage your people to do their own homework on the questions before your meeting.*

*There is more than enough material in these questions to fill up your whole discussion time. So, consider these three suggestions for group discussion:*

*First, choose just one of the 2 Introduction questions.*

*Second, choose no more than 4 or 5 of the Understanding questions.*

*Third, be sure to allow enough time for the Application, which is where we really seek the impact of the sermon on our daily Christian lives. The Application is also a great opportunity for group prayer.*

**Introduction:**

1. Do you look at the world more as “the glass is half empty” or as “the glass is half full”? Explain.
2. What is your understanding of Lent? How do you plan to observe it this year?

**Understanding:**

3. Pastor Dave spoke of healthy differences in ways we have of looking at the world like “extroverts or introverts” and “intellectual people or more action-oriented people”. But what is the difference between those healthy differences and an unhealthy way of looking at the world?
4. Did Jesus need the praise that he got in today’s passage? Why did he arrange to get it? What does that have to do with us?
5. Centuries before Jesus came, Zechariah had a picture of the coming Messiah. Read Zechariah 9:9. How does this verse show Jesus as both having authority and having vulnerability?
6. Read Psalm 118:13-29. How does this Psalm connect to the coming Messiah? How does it speak to the downtrodden being rescued? How does it encourage you?
7. Why did the religious leaders tell Jesus to silence the crowds instead of them just telling the crowds to be quiet? What does this show about the difference between fake authority and real authority?
8. Pastor Dave quoted Andy Crouch “*authority is the capacity for meaningful action.*” What is the authority that God has entrusted to you? How do you implement that? How does it bless people?
9. How did the Romans show their authority around Passover time? Did they have exposure to meaningful risk? Did Jesus have exposure to meaningful risk when he rode into Jerusalem? How does your answer show the difference between the way of Jesus and the way of the world?
10. We should lead with high authority and high vulnerability by connecting our lives with Jesus. How is it deficient to view Jesus as only our example? How does your answer empower you to serve Him better?

**Application:**

11. Whether or not you are at retirement age, answer the following: How will you lead with authority and vulnerability in retirement? How does this differ from the typical worldly idea of retirement?
12. When have you not had the right balance between leading with authority and leading with vulnerability? How does our teaching about Jesus as “change agent” start to encourage you to find the right balance?