**“Palm Sunday Message – A View From the Cross”**

**April 12/13, 2025**

**Speaker: Matt Price**

**Opening:** [15 mins] Begin with an opening prayer and then a brief “catch up” or “icebreaker” before moving into the *scripture reflection* and *application questions*. (Suggested icebreaker: What is your family Easter tradition?)

**Scripture Reflection:** [20 mins]

**Isaiah 53:3-6 (NLT) 3He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. 4Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighted him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! 5But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. 6All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.**

Allow the group time to reflect on the passages. Ask the group: What verse stood out to them and why?

**Application Questions:** [40 mins](*These questions will help you and your group dig deeper into the weekend sermon. Feel free to edit or use only those which fit your allotted time.)*

1. What stood out to you in the message?
2. How did the message deepen your understanding of what Jesus did for us on the cross?
3. What is the truth that the cross reveals about sin?
4. What does the cross reveal about placing our hope in Christ?
5. People saw the cross as a defeat for Jesus. However, Jesus saw it differently. What did Jesus see from the cross beyond suffering?
6. Knowing Jesus paid for all our sins (past, present and future), how should we live our lives under God’s grace?
7. Read John 12:24 – 27. What is the amazing paradox that this passage is teaching us as followers of Jesus Christ?
8. What is the promise or hope in Hebrews 12:2b when we carry our cross?

**Closing & Prayer**: [15 mins] Ask for personal prayer requests and pray for one another (if group is more than 6 people, pair up to ensure everyone is prayed for). Pray for our Good Friday service and Easter celebration.