



session 6 group study guide

the triumphal entry

message

From the time of His baptism, Jesus spent roughly three years in full-time ministry healing the sick, preaching the gospel and forgiving sins. But Jesus has a bigger purpose—one that His entire life was leading up to (see John 3:16).

In the prior chapters in Luke, Jesus has been trying to warn His disciples about the events to come, but few things can prepare them for what they will witness. Jesus makes His public entry into Jerusalem on a day that we now know as Palm Sunday. It was a day of victory and rejoicing. People in the crowd praised Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. But few realized that in less than a week, many of these same people would also watch Him die on the cross, executed alongside common criminals.

Read the story of Jesus' triumphal entry in Luke 19:28-40. As you read, keep the following questions in mind: (1) Many people expected Jesus to come as a brazen king and a political power. How does Jesus' arrival contradict this perception? (2) Given the fact that Jesus knew what would await Him in a few days time, what might He have been feeling as He entered Jerusalem amidst the celebration in His honor?

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'"

Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

They replied, "The Lord needs it."

They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out” (Luke 19:28-40).

dig

1. Before Jesus was to go into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, He asked His disciples to go to the nearby village of Bethphage and get a donkey’s colt for Him to ride into the city. What is the significance of Jesus riding on the colt into Jerusalem?

2. While it was common for important religious or political figures to be able to use the livestock of the local people, Jesus tells His disciples exactly where to find the donkey and how the interaction to obtain it will go. What insights does this provide?

3. Turn to Zechariah 9:9-10 and read one of the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of Jesus. Based on these verses, what kind of savior were the people expecting?

4. According to Matthew 21:8 and Mark 11:8, what did the crowds do when Jesus came riding into Jerusalem?

5. Read Psalm 92:12-14 and Leviticus 23:40-41. What is the significance of the palm frond?

6. For the Hebrew people, the palm was the symbol of beauty and righteousness. It signified the “king” and was always associated with rejoicing as well as triumph and victory. According to Matthew 21:9 and Mark 11:9-10, what did the crowds shout?

7. “Hosanna” means “save now!” and was the cry a people in distress addressed to their king or their God. What kind of “saving” were the people looking for or expecting?

8. What kind of saving was Jesus actually bringing to them?

apply

1. What do you think Jesus was feeling as He entered Jerusalem and saw the multitudes singing His praises, given the fact that He knew a few days later many of these same individuals would be shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” (Mark 15:13-14)?

2. Many of the people expected Jesus to arrive as a political king and have a powerful military presence. Why were the people hoping that Jesus would come as a political savior?

3. How would you respond if Jesus rode into your town today? Would you be out on the streets singing His praises or would you stay home, embarrassed or ashamed?

4. In Jesus' day, people threw their coats and palm fronds on the ground before Jesus as a sign of respect and worship. What would we lay down today as a sign of our utmost respect if Jesus were to arrive?

reflect

1. Is there anything in your life that competes with Jesus for first place that you need to symbolically lay down before Him as a sign of worship and praise?

2. The triumphal entry of Jesus was a key event in His life. It is unique because He allowed Himself to be worshiped and called "king." What similarities and differences does Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem have with His arrival into the world?

3. Finish these sentences:

Today, I am thankful to God for . . .

The last time I worshiped God was . . .

One way that I enjoy praising God is through . . .

Jesus is worthy to be called King and Lord because . . .

meditation



Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

PSALM 150:6