

Unit .26

Session .01

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Scripture



Luke 19:35-46

35 Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their clothes on the colt, they helped Jesus get on it. **36** As he was going along, they were spreading their clothes on the road. **37** Now he came near the path down the Mount of Olives, and the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen: **38 Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.** Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven! **39** Some of the Pharisees from the crowd told him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” **40** He answered, “I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out.” **41** As he approached and saw

the city, he wept for it, **42** saying, “If you knew this day what would bring peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. **43** For the days will come on you when your enemies will build a barricade around you, surround you, and hem you in on every side. **44** They will crush you and your children among you to the ground, and they will not leave one stone on another in your midst, because you did not recognize the time when God visited you.” **45** He went into the temple and began to throw out those who were selling, **46** and he said, “It is written, **my house will be a house of prayer**, but you have made it a **den of thieves!**”

Why is Jesus deserving of your affection and praise?

What are some things we are tempted to worship in place of Jesus?



99 Essential Doctrines

Worship

While many reduce worship to an event or the singing of worship songs, worship is first and foremost something of the heart and extends to all areas of life. The aim and focus of worship is God, giving Him the exact due of praise and adoration that He deserves. Worship should be carried out not only at a personal level within a Christian's life but also in joining with other Christians in the corporate act of worship and stewarding our gifts for the glory of God. Corporate worship serves to edify and strengthen other Christians, but it also serves as a witness to non-believers of the greatness of God.

Main Point

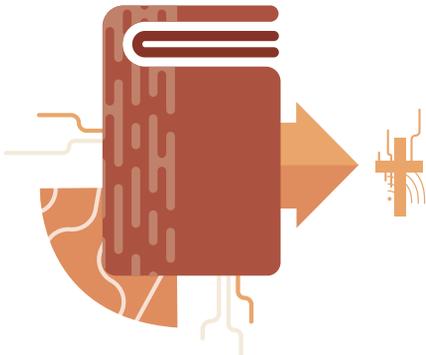
Jesus came to restore true worship.

How should Jesus' weeping for Jerusalem affect our perspective of sinners who do not know Jesus by faith?

On the scale below, mark your level of concern for those who do not know Jesus by faith?

Apathy Urgency

What are some ways we may hinder others in their worship of God?



Christ Connection

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, He fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah and proclaimed He was the One who fulfilled them. The people praised Jesus, but they praised Him for the wrong reasons. In cleansing the temple, Jesus demonstrated how He would bring about true worship through offering His own body as a temple to be destroyed and then raised again.

Does Jesus' reaction surprise you? Why or why not? How would you have responded if you were with Jesus or in the temple when this occurred?

In Defense



Our culture views Jesus as a caricature; He is often pictured kneeling beside a group of children, carrying a sheep, or hugging a stranger. He is always happy and smiling. The idea of Jesus getting mad or sad is completely foreign to the version of the happy, hippy Jesus our culture often portrays.

Unlike these cultural caricatures, Scripture presents a Jesus of passion and humanity. However, unlike our frustration with school or responsibilities, Christ's frustration toward the businessmen dishonoring the temple came from a place of holy discontentment. Jesus was not offering a critique of fair trade or making a statement on economic policy, but was instead declaring that this was neither the time nor the place to be selling. He turned the temple upside down as a sign of cleansing, much like a person might take all the clothes out of a drawer in order to rearrange a dresser.

Jesus not only turned the tables on the money changers, but also on the hopes and expectations of the people. For as quickly as Jesus entered the temple, He departed as a sign that the prophecy was not yet fulfilled. Something else would have to happen before God and man could dwell together.



Head

Why do you think it is important that Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah?

Why should fulfilled prophecy strengthen our faith in who Jesus is?



Heart

What does the Bible say in regard to the new temple where God's Spirit dwells (see 1 Cor. 3:16)?

Are there any "tables" in your life that need to be "thrown over" by Jesus? Why or why not? If so, how do you plan on doing so in the days ahead?



Hands

How does this account challenge us to live out our faith before others?

How will you demonstrate that King Jesus is worthy of your worship this week?

Daily Devotions



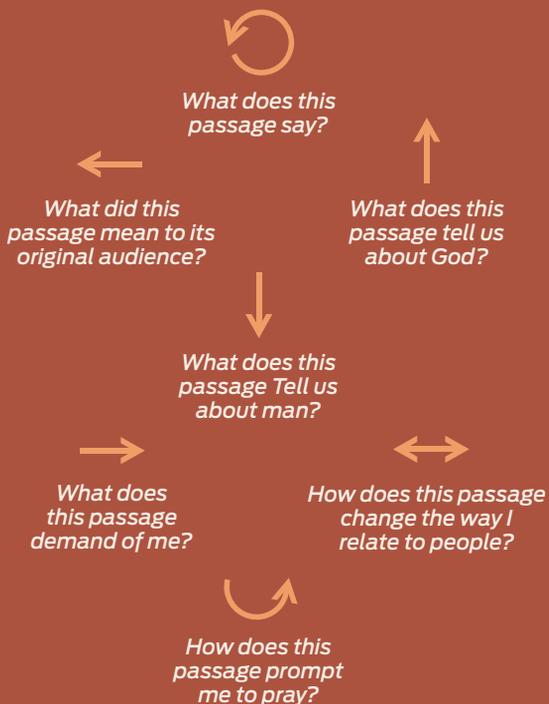
Day 1

Luke 19:28-40

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt, He fulfilled a prophecy about Him given by the prophet Zechariah five hundred years earlier (Zech. 9:9). Jesus was able to direct the disciples to the exact location and moment where they could secure the colt for Him to ride. Jesus is the Messiah who was foretold. And He is able both to predict and control the future. Jesus is God.

Yet He rode on a colt, a humble animal. He had not come to conquer but to suffer. He had not come to deal out death but to die. He came to be humiliated for us on a cross. But His humiliation is now over. He is now highly exalted and has the name that is above every name. When Jesus returns to our world to make all things new, He is going to come on a white horse (Rev. 19:11). The first time He came to our world, He came riding a humble animal and He came to give His life for us. When He returns, He will return in power ready to eliminate evil, pain, and suffering for His people forever.

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



What are you most grateful for about the first time Jesus came to our world? What are you most looking forward to about His return?

John 12:14-17

Verse 17 tells us who was a part of the crowd the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt. These people had seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead. Makes sense! If you saw a person raise someone from the dead, you likely would follow that person to see what would happen next. The One who can raise a dead person to life is worth following and worthy of awe and appreciation.

Yet our story is greater than that of the crowd. We have an even greater experience. We have not seen Jesus raise someone from the dead physically, but we have been raised from the dead spiritually. We were dead in our trespasses and sins, but God has made us alive in Christ (Eph. 2:1-5)! Like Lazarus, we were dead with no hope of bringing ourselves to life. Like Lazarus, Jesus loved us and invited us to come out of our tombs and embrace new life with Him. If the crowd who saw Jesus raise a dead man followed Jesus and worshiped Him, how much more should we?

What similarities are there to being dead physically and dead spiritually? How does this help us understand what it means to be brought to life by Christ?

Luke 19:41-44

In this passage Jesus prophesied judgment upon Jerusalem—that a time was coming when the city would be destroyed. History tells us that what Jesus said would happen did indeed happen. In AD 70, Jerusalem was attacked by Rome and much of the city, along with the temple, was destroyed. Yet in this same passage, we see Jesus weep for His people and express His desire to care for them.

Some theologians have identified two categories of God's attributes: 1) attributes of God's greatness, or His transcendence, and 2) attributes of God's goodness, or His immanence. In this one passage we see Jesus is both great and good. He can predict the future and ensure it happens while loving people in a tender and merciful way. He is great and He is good. He is all-knowing and He loves all. In His holiness and power, Jesus is above all and beyond all, and yet, He came here to offer mercy and grace to people.

What attributes of God are you most grateful for today?

Matthew

21:10-16

In this passage we see a stark contrast in how the religious leaders and children responded to Jesus. The religious leaders wanted the children to stop praising Him while the children were excited to praise Him. Several times in the Gospels, we find Jesus affirming the faith of children. He did not affirm them because they were innocent, as we know none of us are righteous and holy before our holy God (Rom. 3:10). He affirmed them because of their trust, their awe, and their joy.

The faith Jesus affirmed in the children should be the faith of all Christ-followers. The awe the children had should characterize our awe and wonder for Jesus. The trust children place in parents and caregivers should be an illustration of our trust in our Savior. Jesus desires that our faith be childlike.

Where in your faith should you be more childlike? How can you grow in having faith like a child?

Luke

19:45-48

Luke 19 begins and ends with Jesus and thieves, yet Jesus acted very differently in the two encounters. At the beginning of Luke 19, Zacchaeus was an admitted thief, a tax collector who overtaxed his own people so he could line his own pockets. When Jesus went to his house for a meal, Jesus did not turn over the tables or condemn him. Jesus offered salvation and forgiveness to Zacchaeus. But at the end of Luke 19, Jesus walked into the temple and saw unfair and distracting commerce taking place. Jesus was livid and He turned over the tables and spoke strongly against the people who were selling because they were stealing from God's intent for the temple and God's desire for all nations to be able to come to the temple.

Jesus' frustration and anger in the temple reminds us how much He hates hypocrisy and how much He longs for true worship. He pursues worshipers. He pursued Zacchaeus and went to his house in spite of the people complaining that He was with a "sinner." Yet Zacchaeus was not a hypocrite; he was honest about who he was and his faults. The temple, however, had become the epitome of hypocrisy.

Where are you in danger of hypocrisy in your life because your beliefs, words, and actions do not match?