

GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Palm Sunday: Even The Stones Worship The King

Luke 19:28-24



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Weekend of Hope:
 - Good Friday 5pm & 6:30 pm
 - Holy Saturday 5 pm,
 - Easter 8:30 am, 10 am, 11:30 am & 1:00 pm
- April 11- 2nd Saturday (Men)
- April 26- Parent Info Meeting for Camp (Kids)

Check out the TJC Weekend Recap podcast for a more in-depth look at our sermons each week!

The podcast is available on all streaming platforms!

SERMON NOTES

INTRODUCTION

In 1942, during the darkest days of World War II in the Pacific, American and Filipino forces were overwhelmed by the Japanese military. The Philippines fell. As defeat became inevitable, General Douglas MacArthur was ordered to evacuate. It was not a heroic moment—it felt like abandonment.

Before leaving, MacArthur made a promise to the Filipino people: “I shall return.”

For over two years, that promise hung in the air. The Philippines remained under harsh Japanese occupation. People suffered. Many wondered if MacArthur would ever return like he promised. But on October 20, 1944, a massive American fleet appeared—hundreds of ships stretching across the horizon. This wasn’t subtle. This wasn’t quiet. This was an overwhelming force.

And then came the moment that was captured forever in history: MacArthur stepped off a landing craft and waded through the shallow water onto the beach. Shortly after, he made a public declaration: “I have returned.”

And this time, it wasn’t just a promise—it was backed by military might. Tanks, troops, naval power, air superiority. Liberation came through force and conquest.

This was the exact type of appearance the Jewish people were expecting from their Messiah.

EXEGESIS

²⁸ And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’ ”

Christ’s two natures are evident here

- He knows the donkey is there even though he has never seen it
- Scholars often refer to this as the “hypostatic union” – The union of Christ’s two natures

This event is reflective of a prophecy given by the prophet Zechariah: **Zechariah 9:9 – Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

- Jesus went out of his way to ensure that this prophecy was fulfilled
 - This was the opposite of how most prophecies were fulfilled (Birth in Bethlehem)
 - Jesus was intentional about fulfilling this prophecy the correct way in order to send the appropriate message to the people
 - He isn’t riding on a war horse – he’s riding on a humble donkey
- The donkey was a symbol of righteousness and humility
 - The people see Jesus’ entrance on the donkey as an image of a righteous king arriving to take his throne

³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ And they said, “The Lord has need of it.”

³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road.

Christ’s kingship – the donkey is reserved for him and the owners give it to him at his command

John 12:13 – So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”

³⁷ As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen,

He turns the corner and sees the glory of Jerusalem prepared for the King to enter

Crowds gathering around him is different from how he normally operates. The gospels repeatedly record Jesus leaving town to get away from crowds. It's estimated that around 200,000 people are present for this.

As the disciples begin to realize what they are seeing and begin to shout out in worship at all the wonderful things they have seen in their time with Jesus (healing the sick, the blind, making the paralyzed walk, controlling the wind, controlling waves, resurrecting dead men).

³⁸ saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

This is reminiscent of another time a king entered Jerusalem: **2 Kings 9:13 – Then in haste every man of them took his garment and put it under him on the bare steps, and they blew the trumpet and proclaimed, “Jehu is king.”**

- Jehu was a king chosen to bring retribution on the previous king who betrayed God

Glory in the highest – reference to angels at the birth

³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

This is the last time the Pharisees are recorded speaking in the gospel of Luke.

Eventually the worship did stop. This happened on Monday, and we don't hear from the crowds again until Friday when they begin calling for Jesus to be put to death.

Habakkuk 2:11-12 – ¹¹ For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the woodwork respond. ¹² “Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity!

- Speaking to the Chaldeans who were terrible pagans that built their society on murder and crime.

- This parallels what the people of Jerusalem are getting ready to do on Friday.

This reference to the stones worshipping has two implications:

1. If man didn't rejoice at Christ's coming even creation would cry out in shame.
2. Christ will be worshipped; either by man or by his creation. He will either be worshipped by hearts of stone that have been turned to hearts of flesh, or he will be worshipped by the stones themselves.

APPLICATION

1. Christ is the King on the throne

Philippians 2:6-11 – ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Prepare for Christ's return

Hebrews 9:27-28 – ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The Jewish people were expecting a military leader to come and rescue them from their captors. Instead, a Savior appeared to save them from their sin and they rejected him.

When Christ returns again he isn't coming humbly. When Christ returns again he isn't coming to be the savior from sin.

Revelation 19:11-16 – ¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his

mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

“At his first advent he came to suffer; at his second, he will come to reign. The first time Christ came to slay sin in men. The second time he will come to slay men in sin.” – A.W. Pink

When he returns again all men, and the stones themselves will cry out “All hail King Jesus”

o **PRAY**

- How was your week? What is one thing you're grateful for and one thing that challenged you?
- How did you grow in obedience to Christ over the last week?
- Where did you go to share the gospel or have a spiritual conversation with someone?
- What is a sin you have been struggling with that you need to repent of?



- **DISCUSS**

1: The King We Expect vs. The King Who Came – Read: Luke 19:28–31

Question: Why were the people expecting a conquering king, and how does Jesus' humble entrance challenge our expectations of how God works?

Leader Note: Press expectation vs reality. God often works differently than we expect—not weaker, but wiser.

2: The Humble King – Read: Zechariah 9:9

Question: What does Jesus choosing a donkey instead of a war horse reveal about His mission and character?

Leader Note: Emphasize humility. Jesus came first to deal with sin, not political oppression.

3: Christ's Authority – Read: Luke 19:32–35

Question: What does this moment show us about Jesus' authority as King, and how should that shape our response to Him?

Leader Note: Jesus doesn't request permission—He exercises authority. True kingship demands submission, not admiration.

4: Silencing Worship – Read: Luke 19:39–40

Question: Why would the religious leaders want to silence worship, and what does this reveal about hardened hearts?

Leader Note: Religious familiarity can lead to spiritual blindness. Knowledge without submission leads to resistance.

5: The Stones Will Cry Out – Read: Luke 19:40; Habakkuk 2:11–12

Question: What does this statement teach us about the certainty of Christ's glory and the inevitability of His worship?

Leader Note: Christ will be worshiped. The question is not if, but by whom—redeemed hearts or created things.

6: From Praise to Rejection – Read: Luke 19:37–40

The same crowds praising on Monday will call for His death by Friday.

Question: What causes people to move from praising Jesus to rejecting Him? How do we guard against shallow faith?

Leader Note: Surface-level faith collapses when expectations aren't met. True faith endures when circumstances change.

7: The First Coming vs. The Second Coming – Read: Hebrews 9:27–28; Revelation 19:11–16

Question: How should the difference between Christ's first and second coming shape the way we live today?

Leader Note: First coming = salvation. Second coming = judgment and reign. This creates urgency and hope.



- **BUILD UP | SEND OUT**
 - How are you making yourself known at church this week?
 - How are you growing to know Christ better this week?
 - How are you making Christ known this week?
- **PRAYER**
 - Pray over any request from your group members.
 - Pray for our team: Laurie Diccico, Director of Kid's Ministry
 - Pray for our replanters: Christ's Fellowship
 - Pray for our short-term teams:
 -
 - Pray for our long-term units on the mission field:
 - The Wilsons

- The Grays
- The Browns
- **Pray for the unreached.** Want to keep up with Unreached People Groups? Download the Unreached of the Day App <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday/app>