

Sunday: Day of Acclaim

JESUS' FINAL WEEK - 2

Jesus answered, I tell you that if they keep quiet, the stones themselves will start shouting.

– LUKE 19:40,
GOOD NEWS

When the city came into view, he wept over it. If you had only recognized this day, and everything that was good for you! But now it's too late...All this because you didn't recognize and welcome God's personal visit.

– LUKE 19:41-42,
THE MESSAGE

If you have ever felt rejected or misunderstood, you know how Jesus felt as his public ministry came to an end. Jesus took advantage of the large Passover crowd to present Himself as King (Zechariah 9:9). The donkey was a royal animal, and the event was a coronation celebration (1 Kings 1:32-40). It was the only time Jesus permitted a public demonstration in His honor. He did it, in part, to force the religious leaders to act, for it was God's will that He die on Passover.

Although it was a joyful occasion, Jesus wept over the fickleness of the crowd. They gave Him the glory due His name, but with little understanding or genuine allegiance.

WELCOME

When, if ever, have you been in a parade? What do you remember about it?

WORSHIP

Your worship this week should naturally flow out of your time in God's word. Address your praise directly to the Lord. "Hosanna, You're my King," "I Exalt Thee" (62), "Lord, We Praise You" (56), "Father, I Adore You" (53), "Above All Else" (171), "Christ, We Do All Adore Thee" (186), "Let All That Is Within Me" (235), "You Are My All In All" (484).

WORD

Read Luke 19:28-44

1. What impresses you most about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem? What do you see? Hear? Feel? What might the disciples have thought and felt when they heard Jesus' instructions to retrieve the donkey (vss 30-31)?
2. Earlier in His ministry, Jesus refused many efforts to proclaim Him king (i.e., John 6:15). But at this Passover, He chose to ride into Jerusalem on a royal donkey amid public acclaim. Why do you think He accepted the acclaim this time?
3. Why does the crowd praise Jesus as they do (vss 37-38)? What would *you* have shouted as Jesus entered the city? Why? [Encourage people to share something about what God is doing in their own lives.]
4. Why does Jesus weep for Jerusalem? What do the people of Jerusalem fail to recognize (compare 19:44 with 17:20, 21)? When was the last time you wept over someone's spiritual blindness?
5. The fickleness of the crowd is evident in their turning against Jesus later in the week. The parade was something to take in, but not anything to direct their lives. Like the crowd, how are you tempted to want Jesus--but only on your own terms?

WORKS

In the next study we will see Jesus enter the temple with authority and deal with sin. To prepare for that study, imagine your heart as a temple into which Jesus walks, looking for the fruit of prayer. As he looks around, what does he see, and then what does he say to you? Prayerfully consider what He would like you to do to begin to be more fruitful. Ask him what needs to be thrown out.