

6. Read Luke 19:28-48. How is Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem different than what we might have expected, given that he was her rightful king? Picture yourself as one of the disciples. What are your expectations for the next few days?

7. Review the various elements of Luke chapter 19: Zacchaeus, the parable of the Minas, the Triumphal Entry, Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem, and the Cleansing of the Temple. How are all these elements connected? What picture of Jesus is being painted in this chapter?

Thinking Deeper & Taking It Home

Read Luke 18:18-30. Compare Zacchaeus and the Rich Young Ruler. In what ways are they similar to each other? In what ways are they different? How do these interactions reverse our expectations of "who makes it to heaven?"

How does Jesus respond to each of them? How do these interactions help us to understand what we need and who Jesus is?

Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs. Here's a place to list specific prayer needs:

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Good Friday Worship: April 7, 2023

"Crucifixion: The Day Hope Died"

(Luke 23) Pastor Jay Mosser

Next Sunday Worship: April 9, 2023

"Resurrection: God's Answer to Despair"

(Luke 24) Pastor Jay Mosser

Answer Key: ▪ Romans ▪ holy person ▪ rebuke ▪ distance ▪ immediately ▪ rejected ▪ accountability ▪ optimism

Sermon Notes – April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

God's story of redemption is the greatest story ever told – and it isn't just a story made up by people, it's a true story. The story of redemption as it is told in the Bible begins with God creating the heavens and the earth, and it ends with God creating a *new* heaven and a *new* earth. Adam & Eve, our first parents, rebelled against God and by doing so, plunged the entire human race and all of creation into chaos. Into this broken world God sent His Son Jesus to live a righteous life and to be our sin-bearer and Redeemer. Today we celebrate Palm Sunday, the beginning of the final week of the earthly life of Jesus.

Today's Text: Luke 19:1-48

- ⇒ The Jewish hope for the long-promised Messiah was for a warrior-king like the great King David who would drive out the Romans and set up a political kingdom.
- ⇒ Throughout the first half of Jesus' ministry, many were asking about His identity – who is He? Could He be the promised Messiah? But in the second half of Jesus' ministry, the question becomes, "What *kind* of Messiah is Jesus?"
- ⇒ In Luke 9:51, Jesus "set His face to go to Jerusalem," beginning a long journey that culminates in what we call "the Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem to the shouts of an adoring crowd, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."
- ⇒ Luke 19 forms a literary unit, each section painting a part of the picture, helping us understand this amazing moment in redemptive history.

An Unlikely Convert (READ 19:1-10)

- ⇒ In the eyes of the Jewish crowd of Jesus' day, Zacchaeus is an unlikely convert. He collaborates with the _____ in collecting taxes from his own people and gets quite rich doing so.
- ⇒ The religious crowd can't imagine a _____, much less a Messiah, hanging out with a person like Zacchaeus! Imagine!

- ⇒ The expected response from a rabbi like Jesus to a sinner like Zacchaeus is to _____ him and _____ Himself from him. He will certainly not associate with him, go to his house, or eat with him. **What kind of Messiah is this?**

An Unsettling Parable (Survey 19:11-27)

- ⇒ Verse 11 gives the context for the story that follows – Jesus is confronting the idea that the Kingdom of God is about to come _____.
- ⇒ The nobleman in the story is going away to receive a kingdom and then return at some future time. He entrusts various amounts of money to his servants and then leaves, only to be _____ in absentia (v. 14).
- ⇒ There are multiple shocking aspects to this story: the departure, the rejection, the coming day of _____, and future judgment.
- ⇒ For the disciples, this means a delayed kingdom and lots of work; for Jesus’ detractors, there is clear threat of coming judgment!

An Unusual King (READ 19:28-48)

- ⇒ Can you feel the emotion and pent-up excitement in the crowd? Can it be that ancient prophecies are being fulfilled right before their eyes? Strains of Psalm 118 fill the air, and _____ – hope – is the mood of the day! **It is time for the coronation of a King, a royal party...or is it?**
- ⇒ In contrast to the exuberance of the crowd, Jesus weeps over the city and over His people! Their true King has come, but they haven’t recognized Him.
- ⇒ Jesus rides into Jerusalem – not on a mighty war horse like a mighty conqueror – but on a humble donkey, a beast of burden.
- ⇒ The chapter ends with conflict in the temple as Jesus condemns those who oversee it, and in doing so, makes some powerful enemies. **Indeed, what kind of Messiah is this?**

Responding to God’s Word in Worship & Obedience

- ⇒ The Jewish people of Jesus’ day had expectations of the kind of Savior they thought they needed. They didn’t see that their biggest need was not freedom from Rome or relief from crooked tax collectors. Their biggest need was a restored relationship with the living God. Do you see the difference?
- ⇒ Sometimes even good, Bible believing Christians try to remake Jesus into their own image, a savior who does their bidding, solves their problems, and makes life easier. But that is not why Jesus came! Do you struggle with this?
- ⇒ Communion text: Luke 19:9-10

Community Group Notes

Getting Started

As we begin (or continue) Holy Week, what practices or traditions did you grow up with for the Easter Season? Did you grow up practicing Lent? Ash Wednesday? Good Friday? Easter? Did you attend a “Sunrise Service” Easter morning? Was Easter a religious holiday for you growing up or was it just about Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny?

How about now, what practices or traditions do you observe during the Easter Season (religious or otherwise)?

Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday (but don’t read the text yet). In summary form, what was this week’s sermon about? What was the “big idea?”
2. Read Luke 19:1-10. Who was Zacchaeus? How would he have been received by most “good religious folk?”
3. How does this story about Jesus and Zacchaeus help us to understand the kind of Messiah Jesus was as opposed to the Messiah that people of the day might have expected?
4. Read Luke 19:11-27. Why did Jesus tell this parable (note verse 11) and what is the main point?
5. This parable is directed at two groups of people. Who are these two groups and what is being communicated to each of them?