

Crossway Life Group, Week of April 5, Holy Week

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

Community

Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

Scripture: Luke 19:28-44. Sermon: "The King is Coming"

Reading & Discussing Scripture

1. **When change is coming people can adjust to it, ignore it, or fight it.** A major theme of this week's study is how people respond to God coming to them.
2. **Setting of Luke 19.** Luke 19 describes Jesus' intentional entry to Jerusalem. His description highlights various responses to Jesus' claim that he is God's chosen one, the Messiah. While on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus performed a final miracle and told a final parable which foreshadowed how people would respond to the Messiah. In Luke 9:1-9, the tax collector Zacchaeus gladly received Jesus' forgiveness and corrected his mistreatment of others, while people muttered at Jesus accepting 'a sinner'. Then Jesus told a final parable (19:10-27) in which some people actively rejected a new king and others passively resisted him by ignoring his commands.
3. **Read Luke 19:28-34.** What are the details of Jesus intentional plan to prepare for his entry to Jerusalem? What do these details mean? (Consider the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, as well as the rights of a king to take what he needs from his subjects for his own uses, as described in 1 Samuel 8:11-18)
4. **Read Luke 19:35-40.** What are the various responses to Jesus' entry to Jerusalem and his claim to be King? Why is the public aspect of this praise important both for those who accept and those who resist?
5. **Read Luke 19:41-44.** What is Jesus' response to rejection? Why does He respond in this way?
6. What do you think Luke wanted the churches to learn from this story? What is an important lesson that you take from the passage or sermon?

The Big Idea

When God comes to people they respond with...

- joyful and total submission to the King, or
- open rebellion against the King, or
- passive resistance against the King

When people resist or oppose God, Jesus responds with...

- compassionate grief, and
- self-sacrifice to bring salvation

Application & Reflection Questions

1. What are some examples of on active rejection and of passive resistance to Jesus as King? How are these responses different, and how are they similar? What is God's perspective on these responses?
2. In Luke 19, we see Jesus approaching Jerusalem, and Jesus knew that the people of the city would reject Him. When and how has God come to you? Have there been times when you have resisted Him, and when you have gladly welcomed Him?
3. Luke 19 and the rest of the New Testament present Jesus with absolute authority as King, and it invites people to joyfully embrace the King and enter his Kingdom. What might a joyful embrace of Jesus as King look like for you today? How does the authority of Jesus enable you to accept Him with praise? What tempts you to respond with hesitation or resistance?
4. Jesus responded to those who rejected Him or resisted Him with compassionate grief, because He longed for their salvation. When He saved a sinner like Zacchaeus, however, not one else was happy.

When is it hard for you to be compassionate toward those who oppose God? What helps your heart grow in compassion for people who reject God, a rejection that leads to their loss?

5. What can you do this week to meaningfully prepare for our celebrations of Good Friday (the celebration of Jesus' death) and Easter (the celebration of Jesus' resurrection)? One practice that is common in many parts of the Christian Church is fasting. Do you have any questions about fasting and prayer? How might your Life Group support each other in meaningful worship in this special season in Christianity?

Growing in Cultural Understanding

Different cultures and families have special ways that they come together in times of great importance, whether tragedies or loss or great risk or life changing situations. A common expression in the Bible was to call for a time of fasting and prayer (for example, see Esther 4:3 and 16; Daniel 9:3; Acts 13:1-2, 14:23). What practices have been a part of your story, or currently are a part of your experience?

Serving beyond ourselves

In this new season of life that is so deeply affected by the coronavirus, are there practical things your group might be able to do to help and care for others, while practicing the wisdom and discipline of social distancing?

Luke 19:28-44 (New International Version)

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ "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. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They replied, "The Lord needs it."

³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷ 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: ³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" ⁴⁰ "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

⁴¹ As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴² and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."