



# Journey to Jerusalem

## LENT 2022

### Growth Group Curriculum Week 6 – April 10, 2022 – Luke 19:28-40

**Growth groups are one of the best and easiest ways to find community at church. Thank you for loving and caring for each other.**

At the beginning of this sermon series we read Luke 9:51 which says, *“As the time approached for Jesus to be taken up to heaven, he resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”* The journey to Jerusalem has now come to an end. Jesus makes his entrance into Jerusalem with his disciples praising his name. Yet, the disciples have no idea what will happen over the next several days.

There certainly had to be some expectations that Jesus would arrive in the city and take charge. After all this is what kings did. Kings used their power to create their kingdom. They set things in order. The disciples certainly had this sort of expectation. Very few of them were probably connecting all of what was happening back to Zechariah 9:9. The expectation of a Messiah was one who would reign with power and not one who would come with a servant’s heart and be willing to give his life.

Old Testament Scriptures continue to be fulfilled as the crowd uses the words of Psalm 118:26 to cry out about the one who comes in the name of the Lord. The crowd of disciples also use words that are very similar to the words of the angels at the annunciation of Jesus to the shepherds in Luke 2:14. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, he is fulfilling the plan that had been prophesied about centuries earlier.

The religious leaders continue to be upset with Jesus. They tell him to rebuke his disciples. Yet, Jesus says if they don’t cry out the rocks will. There is a sense that all of creation, whether living or not, sees Jesus for who he is. He is the king of kings and lord of lords and all of God’s creation will proclaim his glory.

Verses 41-44 of Luke 19 provide one more insight into the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem. He weeps over the city. The only other time that Jesus weeps is in the gospel of John after Lazarus has died. Jesus laments because he sees the future of Jerusalem. He knows the temple will be destroyed in less than 40 years. He knows the people will not recognize him for who he is. The Messiah is in their midst, but because of their misplaced expectations, they will not see him for who he truly is.



## Exploring the Text

Luke 19:28-40

<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup> “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. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” <sup>32</sup> Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup> They replied, “The Lord needs it.” <sup>35</sup> They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> 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: <sup>38</sup> “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” <sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” <sup>40</sup> “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

## Questions

*If you are answering these questions alone, we would urge you to try journaling. Rather than just pondering the answers, try writing them out along with a prayer to the Lord.*

- 1) Have you ever been caught up in a cheering, celebrating crowd? Discuss how that felt.
- 2) Jesus knew the suffering that awaited him. Why do you think he chose to enter Jerusalem so publicly and loudly, rather than quietly as he usually did?
- 3) Have you ever felt full of praise and joy for Jesus? How did you express that?
- 4) From the Mount of Olives Jesus would have looked across the Kidron Valley to the eastern walls of Jerusalem as he prepared to enter the City. With this in mind, consider the vision of Zechariah 14:3-5. Does this prophecy impact your reaction to Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem?
- 5) The Golden Gate, or Gate of Mercy, is thought to be where Jesus went into Jerusalem. It is also the gate through which the Messiah will come according to ancient Jewish literature. What is the significance of a city gate in your understanding of scripture? Do you have “personal” gates that you guard or keep locked up?
- 6) Vs. 39-40 says the Pharisees wanted Jesus to rebuke his disciples for the loud public display. Why did the Pharisees dislike this? Jesus says the rocks would cry out if they were silenced. How did the rocks cry out in Matt 27:51-52 when the disciples and followers were silenced?
- 7) Have you ever had a time when you expected God to do something or act in a certain way and it didn’t happen? How did you feel? Disappointment? Sadness? Surprise?
- 8) Read Luke 19:41-44. What is the significance of Jesus weeping over Jerusalem? Does this surprise you? As you look around the world today, what causes you to weep? Pastor Paul connected this idea of weeping with lament at the end of his sermon. What role should lament have in our prayer lives?

