

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 04.02.2023

PALM SUNDAY– LUKE 19:29-44

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us “Palm Sunday ushers us into the last week of Jesus’ life. Everything has been building up to this crescendo. The cross is only days away. As Jesus makes His way into Jerusalem for what would be the last time, He is greeted by a throng of worshippers shouting ‘Hosannah.’ Yet strangely, this day which begins with so much celebration ends with lamentation and Jesus weeping over the city. This day stands out from the rest of the events recorded in the gospels for several reasons. For one thing, it’s one of only a handful of stories that makes its way into all four gospels. Something else that stands out about Palm Sunday is the fact that it marks the only time Jesus ever publicly orchestrated a public demonstration around Himself. Jesus typically tried to keep a low profile. He would heal someone and immediately tell them not to tell anyone. On one occasion, the crowds tried to take Jesus by force and make Him their king, but He slipped away. However, on this day, He not only allows Himself to be the center of attention but sets it up to maximize His exposure.” Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from this week’s sermon?
2. What is the difference between personal and corporate worship? Why are both of these important in expressing our need for God and desire to be with Him?

## Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 19:28-34

The day starts with Jesus sending His disciples into the city ahead of Him to get a donkey to ride into the city on. I love the fact that when the disciples went into the city, they found everything just as He told them it would be. It’s like He knew! Of course, He knew, He’s God! What’s clear is that Jesus was carefully arranging and orchestrating all the details of this day. In a sense, He was calling for a national press conference. There was something special going on. What was it?

1. **Do you think these unnamed disciples considered Jesus’ instructions odd? Why or why not?**
2. **Do you think these disciples doubted anything that Jesus told them to expect?**
3. **What might the fact that the colt had not yet been ridden imply about how the colt would be used? Read Zechariah 9:9 to help explore this question.**

Jesus’ words and actions happened just as He described them, suggesting at a minimum that Jesus had prearranged His special transportation for Jerusalem, but more likely affirming His divine foreknowledge. Jesus choosing to use His disciples in this process demonstrates His desire to build their faith and trust in Him by showing them His glory. That the colt had never been ridden implies a kind of purity about the animal—that it had been specially set apart for the task at hand.

## ***“PROMISES” in 2023***

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 19:35-40 AND MATTHEW 21:6-9.

- 1. Why do you think Jesus chose a donkey for His triumphal entry to Jerusalem? Does that seem appropriate for someone perceived as a king by His people?**
- 2. Why do you think the people spread palm branches on the road?**
- 3. What does the phrase “Hosanna” mean? What did it communicate about the crowd’s expectations of Jesus?**

Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey was the deliberate display of Israel’s king coming with God’s offer of peace. He was the Son of David chosen to sit on David’s throne. He was the One of whom the prophet Zechariah had spoken (Zech. 9:9). Yet it was no small irony that the people, by using palm branches in their celebration, were heralding Jesus as a political king, not the humble shepherd-king He was portraying Himself as. The palm branch was a significant symbol of military victory for the Jews, which means the people displayed them expecting Jesus to be their political or militaristic king. In chanting “Hosanna” (“save now”) along with other phrases from Psalm 118, the Jews were using a common patriotic or nationalistic cheer, another affirmation that the Jews looked to Jesus as their political savior.

- 4. What were the people expecting Jesus to do when He reached Jerusalem (Luke 19:11 and Zech. 9:9)?**
- 5. How were the people’s expectations of the Messiah different from Jesus’ true intentions?**
- 6. When have your expectations about God been different from the way He has revealed Himself to you?**

Despite the joy and praise of the disciples, Jerusalem did not receive its king. Many people interpreted the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah to be about a national leader who would make Israel into a powerful nation again. The more evident it became that Jesus hadn’t come to lead as their earthly king and political hero, the more people turned their backs on Him.

- 7. Read verses 37-38 again. What did the people testify about Jesus in their praises? Why would this have upset the Pharisees (v. 39)?**
- 8. What does Jesus’ reply to the Pharisees reveal about Him?**
- 9. What might the stones cry out?**

The people’s joy at Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem echoed the angelic joy at Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem (Luke 2:3-14). However, in this scene of joyful celebration, a dark side was present as well. While others were caught up in the occasion of praise, the Pharisees felt threatened. So out of the same scene came praise and criticism. Jesus immediately answered them. On another occasion, Jesus had commanded silence (Luke 9:21) but not now, not on this occasion. If the disciples withheld their praise, Jesus said the stones would cry out in their place. Jesus was publicly presenting Himself to the nation, and God was determined this fact would be acknowledged. On this occasion Jesus was clearly proclaiming that He was Israel’s Messiah.

## ***“PROMISES” in 2023***

- 1. If you had been a Jew living in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus, what would have made you reject and oppose Jesus? What would make you receive Him?**

### **Applying God’s Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

It’s sobering to think that this day which began with so much celebration, ended with Jesus weeping over the city. It should also cause us to pay attention. The same Jesus who made His way down the Mt. of Olives on the back of a donkey 2,000 years ago before going into the Eastern Gate is coming back to the same mountain. Only this time, He will be riding a white horse. He won’t be coming back as a Lamb, but as a roaring Lion. He will establish His millennial Kingdom and He will reign forever! Even so, come Lord Jesus, Maranatha!

- 1. What expectations do we place on Christ today? Do we think of Him as a power that will serve our desires, or do we see Him as the Lord who is worthy of our worship?**
- 2. What does praise look like in your day-to-day life? In what ways might you reject Jesus, even unintentionally?**
- 3. How is Jesus received by our community today? Is the view we hold equal to Jesus as presented in Scripture?**

**PRAYER** – Close your time in prayer. Praise God for sending Christ to be the king we needed, not the king we wanted. Ask God to help your group worship Him with their whole lives. Also be intentional about praying for and inviting people to come Easter Sunday to hear the Gospel. Let’s pray for a great harvest of souls this Easter!

**“Rejoice greatly, daughter Zion! Shout, daughter Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” (Zechariah 9:9)**