

Discussion Questions: Palm Sunday Message

Luke 19:28-44

1. What did Jesus know was going to happen in Jerusalem. (See Luke 18:31-34) Knowing all He knew regarding what would happen to Him, why do you think he went along with it
2. The disciples had a certain expectation as to what Jesus would do when coming to Jerusalem. (See Luke 19:11) What was this expectation? Do you think they were wrong to expect this? Why or why not? How does the parable that Jesus told after this in verses 12-27 serve to change their expectation?
3. Even though Jesus knew all that would happen to him in Jerusalem, he continues toward the city, playing the part. (Note for further insight into what was going on in behind the scenes with the religious leaders, see John 11:45-53, 11:57, 12:9-11) In light of such opposition, why did he continue down this path?
4. What do verses 19-34 reveal about the nature of Jesus? How did he know what would happen? What is the significance of Jesus riding into town on a donkey? (compare John 12:14 -16, Matthew 21:2-5, Zechariah 9:9)
5. How would you describe the mood of the people as Jesus approached the city? (note that In addition to those coming up from the outlying regions, John 12:12-16 records that people were leaving the city to come out to meet Jesus, See also Matthew 21:10 -11) Did Jesus share their sentiment?
6. Instead of rejoicing and celebrating with the people Jesus looks over the city and weeps. Based on what he says in verses 42-44, what caused this emotional response? What else did they miss according to verse 44 that would ultimately result in the complete destruction of the city?
7. What are the “things that make for peace” that Jesus was referring to in Luke 19:42. (see Romans 5:1-2, Ephesians 2:11-22)
8. While there was great sorrow in the heart of Jesus over the reality of the pending destruction and suffering of the city, there was also joy in what his suffering would accomplish. (see Hebrews 12:2)
9. Though Jesus had always hinted that the salvation he would bring would be applied to all (see John 12:20-33), how do you think his followers would have responded if he had come out and said that Jews and Gentiles (including the Roman’ who were oppressing them) would soon be welcomed into one body of believers?
10. Something significant happens just after his entry into Jerusalem, recorded in Luke 19:45-46. How do you think the event described here would have impacted Jesus popularity among the different groups of people? (Poor, common class, wealthy, religious leaders, gentiles) What is the growing trend that is described in verses 47-48.)

Discussion questions: Part 2

1. The crowd that welcomed Jesus as king soon rejected Him because He didn't meet their expectations and His plan was not in line with how they thought God should work. What are some of the ways that we might fall into the same trap...that is miss out on what God is doing because it doesn't fit our expectations?

2. Jesus, knowing that the very ones who were welcoming Him as king would soon turn on him did not gloat over the coming destruction of the city, but weeps over Jerusalem. In what way does this model how we should react to our enemies and those who wish us harm. (or even those who we strongly oppose)

3. When Jesus talks about "things that make for peace" he is at likely thinking, at least in part, of the ultimate sacrifice that he would soon make so that we could have peace with God. How does having peace with God impact our relationship with others? How does it impact our ability to be "peacemakers".