

Jesus the King

Luke 19:28-40 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 28 March 2021

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: Describe large crowds that you have been part of and what are your memories of those occasions?

Worship: [Luke 19:37-40](#) (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation to you?*)

Sermon Summary for [Luke 19:28-40](#) (*Read the passage aloud before reading the sermon summary.*)

Holy Week begins with Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. It's wonderful at first glance: Crowds swarming to the center of their world to celebrate Passover, offering shouts of praise to Christ as He rode into the city. But they misunderstood Him, thinking Jesus came to defeat the Romans... when in reality, He would die at their hands just a few days later. The same could be said of the disciples, who presumed they would rule alongside Christ rather than suffer as He did. We too can be confused about what Jesus is doing in our lives. Like those on Palm Sunday, we come to Him with strong desires and expectations. And He refuses to compromise and be who we want Him to be. So, what is Christ's true reign like?

Jesus reigns as King of Grace // The Palm Sunday revelers were determined to make a statement about what they thought was going on with Jesus. To add to the effect, they laid down their cloaks in the roadway and sang royal hymns in His honor. They think a king like David has come to save them as an earthly king. But they are misdirected. The story of Jesus' grand (though surprising) entry into Jerusalem is an object lesson in the mismatch between our expectations and God's answer. Jesus knows all of this. He begins Holy Week by accepting their praise. Which should be so encouraging to us. Whatever bit of our praise is accurate – Jesus will start there, come alongside us, and delight in us as we delight in Him. This is a wonder of God's grace, but also a challenge to be loving, welcoming ambassadors of our King to others who may only be just beginning to learn who He is.

Jesus reigns as King of Peace // Jesus knows exactly what He is doing. He is Lord over all our confusion, over the raging sea of our desires, longing and desperation. And even in the middle of this, He is fulfilling prophecy to become our King – humbly, committed to transforming His people with His abiding peace ([Zech 9:9-10](#)). Each of us will experience the same confusion that the people of Israel did. But if we are willing to trust and follow Him, we will see that Christ is weaving our story into His own.

Jesus reigns as King of Glory // As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the crowds sing as the angels did to herald His birth: "*Glory in the highest.*" The glory of Jesus is in His cross... which means it is for us as well. It addresses our inability to fix or save ourselves, bringing this truth into focus. It shows that the only One who can heal our brokenness is the One who died upon the cross. Palm Sunday is all about this strange mercy of a strange kingship with a strange glory. Here is our great challenge: to discover Jesus – the scarred God, the despised and wretched God, the crucified God – amid the alluring gods of our feel-good moment in time.

The account of Palm Sunday is short... but Luke draws our attention to Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, mourning over their lack of faith and inability to comprehend the true Kingdom of God which is rooted in Christ. May He not weep over us in this way. May we embrace and praise Him, praying to know more of Him. May we offer ourselves to His work of peace. And may we walk the path of the cross together with Him as the way of true glory.

Discussion Questions (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

Jesus Reigns as King of Grace (v28-34)

- What are the implications of Jesus' riding into Jerusalem on a donkey?
 - What might we have expected the God/man to ride in on? Why?
- Share a time when you felt (or feel) the mismatch between your expectations of God and His purposes?
 - How are these times faith building for you? For others?

Jesus reigns as King of Peace (v35-37)

- What was the crowd up to in throwing their cloaks down on the ground before Jesus?
 - How can we throw the "cloaks" of our lives down before Jesus in praise and honor?
- How does it comfort/encourage/challenge us that Jesus accepted and received the praises of these crowds?
 - How can you take the time to praise Jesus more often?

Jesus reigns as King of Glory (v39-40)

- The Pharisees call Jesus "teacher" and tell Him to rebuke His disciples. Jesus does not comply. What is the significance of this interaction?
- How does your encounter with this passage shape who you are and who you want to become?
 - What is Jesus' invitation to you?

For further reflection:

- Read the parable just before the Palm Sunday narrative (Parable of the Minas, [Luke 19: 11-27](#)) and what comes just after it (Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, [Luke 19:41-44](#)).
 - What is the significance of these passages around Luke's Palm Sunday account?
 - How do they urge us to bow before Jesus as our king and to encourage others to do so?

Prayer

During Holy Week be intentional to reflect on and praise Jesus that His is our King of Grace, King of Peace and King of Glory.

For the weekly Prayer Guide to use personally, with your group, or family click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Generous Hospitality

We are recommending *The Art of Neighboring* ([site](#) | [book](#)). It challenges us to get to know the eight households closest to our own. This alone would make a huge difference in our neighborhoods and is a wonderful way to practice generous hospitality. Let's all begin by asking:

1. On a scale of 1-10, how connected are the people in your current neighborhood or apartment complex? Describe the dynamic among your neighbors.
2. How many of your neighbors' names can you list right now?
3. Has Covid given you more or less opportunities to interact with your neighbors?
4. Share one small step that you could take to get to know a neighbor over the next week.

Some suggestions:

- [Order the book](#) for your CG, holding one another accountable to put its principles into actions.
- Make a list of the 8 households that are closest to your own, commit to learning their names.
- Add Neighboring videos and discussion ([link to both](#)) to your regular weekly sermon discussion.
- Step away from sermon discussions to read & discuss the book, working together to put it into action.