

## Connect Group Discussion Guide – 3/24/2024

### Palm Sunday - Triumphal Entry

**Video Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

**Audio Only:** On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

#### Highlights

- Triumphal Entry fulfills prophecy: **Psalm 118**, – with shouts of praise and boughs held high, this is the day that the Lord has made and many believe **Daniel 9:25** - likely the day prophesied by Daniel that Messiah the Prince would come unto Jerusalem.
- **Verse 28-29** 14 mile journey, 3300 elevation gain, probably 9 ½ hours
  - What is Jesus thinking about? He knows this is his last trip into Jerusalem.
    - He knows what is coming in just a few days: that he'll celebrate the Passover with his closest 12, that he'll wash their feet, that he will create the Lord's Supper or communion, that Judas will betray him and Peter will deny him, he knows he will be flogged, forced to carry the cross, and die that horrible death on the cross, all in the next 5 days.
  - So why take the trip? Why make a triumphal entry as king? What is he triumphing over?
- **Verse 30-31** We know from the other gospels this is a colt of a donkey. Why a donkey?
  - In the Roman Empire, Victorious conquerors, generals, ride in on a horse, Kings come in peace on a donkey,
  - No one ever sat – this colt was for Jesus and Jesus only. **Are you and your worship for Jesus only?**
  - Fulfillment of prophecy. **Zech 9:9** (~550 years earlier)
- **Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:5**
  - When Kings came in a triumphal entry, they came with an escort of citizens, his army, and a lot of pomp and circumstance.
    - Songs were sung in praise, and the king would come with symbols of his victory and authority.
    - Then he would go to the prominent temple and make sacrifices to honor the gods.
    - **It was all about what they did for the people – conquered land or a people and brought home the spoils**
  - Jesus was entering Jerusalem to announce His Kingdom, finally acknowledging to everyone who He is – has the crowd, and we'll find out the shouts of praise, but notice he comes in lowly, gentle. Kind of a motley crew of his disciples escorting him in.
    - Jesus is teaching the people and he's teaching us. Humility, gentleness, meekness, love. It's not about pomp, or noise, or look at me.
      - How often did Jesus not even want the people to know the miracles he performed.
      - Yes, he's God. Yes he's a King, THE King. But he not about himself, and that's who we are to be too.
      - Jesus doesn't conquer with power and strength and might, he conquers with love, grace, mercy and faithfulness.
- **Luke 19:37-38, John 12:13** "In the name of the Lord" = with the authority and power of God.
  - Hosanna = please save us
  - Branches – Palm branches are a sign of victory, Mark and Matthew also refer to tree branches – not specifically palm, but still a sign of victory.

- They were saying all the right things. They knew he was fulfilling prophecy from Zechariah, they were quoting from Psalm 118, but do they really understand?
- Why are they praising Jesus? Please save us from what?
  - We have an advantage – we’re on this side of the resurrection. We have the Scriptures to teach us. They didn’t.
    - **Luke 19:37b** “for all the miracles they had seen”
    - **John 12:18** “they had heard he raised Lazarus and went out to meet him”
    - Save from the Roman Empire – this is their land, their promised land. Please save us and give us our land back!
- **But what are all these things about that they are praising Jesus for?**
  - What he has done or will do for THEM! Not for who HE is.
    - BUT, Don’t we do the same thing?
      - We praise when: He has done something good for me – healing, provision, etc.
      - But do we often acknowledge who He is? Full of grace and love and mercy. Do we praise Him because He is our Savior, or Lord, our Messiah. Do we praise Him simply because He IS God.
- **What is He really making a triumphal entry to conquer – Darkness/sin in our life.** We make it about us instead of making it about Him.
  - **Is your praise about HIM or about YOU?**
- And what happens when our “expectations” aren’t met?
  - We get disappointed, even angry.
  - And what happened to Jesus just 5 days later when their expectations weren’t met? Hosanna → Crucify Him!
- **Luke 19:41-42** weep is a sign of pain, grief, mourning
  - Hidden – kept secret, concealed
  - Real Jesus-giving peace is life changing. The peace they were looking for (as do we) is temporary, “feel-good” peace.
- **Luke 19:44b** Jesus is foreshadowing the Roman destruction of the Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD,
  - He’s also foreshadowing the destruction and death of our lives when we don’t recognize WHO HE IS. He is coming to conquer darkness, destruction and death!
  - **What’s it going to take for you to see Jesus for who He truly is?**

**Car question and the bottom line... Who is Jesus to YOU?**