

Small Group Guide: Palm Sunday - The Triumphal Entry

Key Scripture References

- **Luke 19:28-48** (*main text*)
- Genesis 3:14-a5b (*gospel in the garden*)
- Genesis 49:10-11a (*Lion of Judah, Scepter of the King, Shiloh - Messiah*)
- 2 Kings 9:12b-13 (*Jahu anointed as king, coats laid before him*)
- Zechariah 9:9 (*Passover prophecy - the coming King on a donkey*)
- Psalm 118:25-26 (*prophetic praise of the people as Jesus entered Jerusalem*)
- Daniel 9:24-27 (*Exact timing of Jesus entry into Jerusalem - 483 years after the command to rebuild*)
- Exodus 12:3-6 (*selection of the passover lamb on the 10th of Nisan, inspection, then sacrificed on the 14th of Nisan*)
- Revelation 19:11-16 (*The coming King on a White horse for Judgement*)
- Matthew 5:17-18 (*Jesus perfectly fulfills all prophecy and the Law*)
- John 6:38 (*Jesus does only the Father's will, perfectly*)
- Luke 9:51 (*Jesus sets his face to Jerusalem, God's timing has come*)
- 1 Corinthians 2:7-11 (*The Holy Spirit reveals the hidden truths of God's Word to the believer*).

Sermon Summary

This Palm Sunday message explored Jesus' intentional and prophetically ordained entry into Jerusalem. Far from being a random event, Jesus' triumphal entry was the fulfillment of centuries of Old Testament prophecy, occurring at the precise moment ordained by God. The sermon contrasted Jesus' first coming (on a donkey, as the Prince of Peace) with His second coming (on a white horse, as conquering King), and examined the various responses people had to Jesus then—and still have today.

Understanding the Text

1. **The Timing of God:** The sermon emphasized that Jesus entered Jerusalem on the 10th of Nisan, exactly when Passover lambs were to be chosen and inspected. How does this timing deepen your understanding of Jesus as "the Lamb of God"?
2. **Old Testament Prophecy:** Multiple Old Testament passages were referenced (Genesis 49, Zechariah 9:9, Psalm 118, Daniel 9). Why is it significant that Jesus fulfilled these prophecies so precisely? What does this tell us about the reliability of Scripture?
3. **Two Entries:** The sermon contrasted Jesus' entry on a donkey (peace) with His future return on a white horse (judgment/ victory). How does understanding both comings help us grasp the full picture of who Jesus is?

Personal Reflection

4. **Responses to Jesus:** In the Palm Sunday account, we see different responses—true disciples, excited crowds, indifferent observers, and hostile religious leaders. Which group do you most identify with in different seasons of your life? Where are you now?
5. **Jesus Wept:** Jerry shared that Jesus wept over Jerusalem because "you did not know the time of your visitation." Have you ever missed a "divine appointment" or opportunity God was giving you? How can we become more spiritually aware?
6. **True Worship:** The sermon emphasized that worship isn't about our preferences but about focusing on Jesus. How does this challenge your approach to worship? What distracts you from truly

worshiping?

Application & Action

7. **Different Roles in God's Kingdom:** The sermon noted that some people spread the word about Jesus, others retrieved the donkey, and others prepared the way with cloaks and palm branches. What unique role or gift has God given you to serve His kingdom?
8. **Critics and Skeptics:** "There are always going to be critics and skeptics when you choose to step out of the crowd to serve Jesus." Have you experienced criticism for your faith? How did you respond? How should we respond?
9. **Lost Souls:** Jesus still weeps over lost souls. Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus? What's preventing you from sharing with them?

Key Takeaways

1. **God's Timing is Perfect:** Every detail of Jesus' entry was planned before the foundation of the world and executed with surgical precision.
2. **Jesus is Worthy of True Worship:** Not superficial, preference-based worship, but wholehearted devotion focused entirely on Him.
3. **God Uses His People Differently:** We all have different roles in preparing the way for others to meet Jesus.

4. **Now is the Accepted Time:** We must recognize "the time of our visitation" and respond to God's invitation today.
5. **Jesus Weeps Over the Lost:** His heart breaks for those who reject Him and miss their opportunity for salvation.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to put into practice this week:

- **Share the Gospel:** Identify one person who doesn't know Jesus and pray for an opportunity to share with them this week.
- **Examine Your Worship:** Before next Sunday, reflect on what distracts you during worship and commit to being more focused on Jesus.
- **Serve in Your Role:** Identify your unique gifting and find one practical way to use it to point others to Jesus.
- **Study Prophecy:** Read through one of the Old Testament prophecies mentioned (Zechariah 9:9, Psalm 118, or Daniel 9:24-27) and journal about how Jesus fulfilled it.
- **Pray for the Lost:** Create a list of 3-5 people who don't know Jesus and commit to praying for them daily through Easter.

Memory Verse

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Looking Ahead to Easter

As we move through Holy Week toward Easter:

- **Monday-Wednesday:** Reflect on Jesus' final teachings in the temple
- **Thursday:** Remember the Last Supper and Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane
- **Friday:** Meditate on the crucifixion and Jesus' sacrifice
- **Saturday:** Sit in the silence of the tomb
- **Sunday:** Celebrate the resurrection!

Closing Prayer Points

- Thank God for His perfect timing and plan of salvation
- Pray for those who don't yet know Jesus as Lord and Savior
- Ask for boldness to share the gospel with others
- Pray for hearts that truly worship Jesus, not just go through motions
- Thank Jesus for being both the Lamb who was slain and the Lion who will return