



Small Group Study Guide  
**SERMON: The Cheers, the Collapse and the Comeback**  
Down but Not Done!

February 15, 2026 | CrossPointe Church  
Tracy "PT" Pounders, Pastor

**INTRODUCTION** This sermon walks Passion Week's opening scene (Luke 19:28–48), tracing three movements — Preparation (the colt, rope, cloaks), Proclamation (testimony-driven praise), and Pushback (Pharisees' rebuke and Jesus' comeback) — and applies them to personal surrender, contagious testimony, compassionate vulnerability, and cleansing the temple of our hearts so we leave "drained but not done."

**KEY SCRIPTURES** and brief summaries:

- **Luke 19:28–40** — The Triumphal Entry: Jesus sends disciples to fetch a colt, rides into Jerusalem, and the crowd proclaims Him King; Pharisees demand silence and Jesus replies that the stones would cry out. (Preparation, Proclamation, and Pushback.)
- **Luke 19:41–44** — Jesus weeps over Jerusalem: Jesus mourns that the city did not recognize the things that make for peace; a call to compassion for the lost and vulnerability.
- **Luke 19:45–48** — Cleansing the temple: Jesus drives out merchants, declares the temple a house of prayer, and continues teaching amid opposition; a call to remove corruption from sacred space.
- **Psalms 118** (referenced) — The pilgrim blessing echoed by the crowd: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord," connecting Jesus' entry to Jewish worship traditions.
- **Ephesians 4:15** (referenced in application) — Encouragement toward "brave clarity" in truth spoken in love.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Read Luke 19:29–31. What does the image of the colt "*on which no one has ever sat*" say about how God chooses and prepares ordinary things/people? How might that apply to you?
2. Jesus told his disciples to say, "*The Lord has need of it.*" What difference does it make to believe God "needs" our willingness (not our perfection)? Share an example.
3. Which "rope" in your life—fear, habit, comfort, a hoarded resource—needs untying this week? What practical step will you take to untie it? Share "rope" details if you are comfortable.
4. Why did the disciples and crowd praise publicly (Luke 19:37–38)? How does testimony (things you have seen God do) make worship contagious in your experience? Name one God-thing you can testify to this week.
5. PT urged us to: "***Set aside five minutes each night with your family naming one God-thing.***" How realistic is that for your household or group? What barriers might you face?
6. In Luke 19:39–40 the Pharisees demand silence. Where have you experienced "Pharisees" (internal critics or external people) silencing your witness? How can you respond like Jesus did?
7. Jesus weeps for Jerusalem (Luke 19:41–44). How does Jesus' vulnerability shape your view of Christian leadership and your own permission to feel? PT reference his own inability to hold back vulnerable emotions (tears) at times. How do you feel about being vulnerable emotionally?

8. When Jesus cleared the temple (Luke 19:45–46), he called it a House of Prayer. What needs cleansing in your heart, home or community to make space for prayer? Be specific.
9. PT gave two ACTION “steps” (see below: Untie Step / Cloak Step). Which one will you commit to this week? Share it with the group for accountability.
10. One application step is “BRAVE Clarity” (Eph 4:15). Is there someone you need to speak to “in love” this week? Are you ready to do it? Why or why not? This is to clear your conviction, not theirs. Don’t confront them about something they are doing! Confess for yourself only!

#### PT’S BEST QUOTES

- *“Untying the rope is an act of release — the moment when something reserved becomes available for God’s plan.”*
- *“A cloak in that culture was intimate... laying a cloak down before someone was the highest form of welcome.”*
- *“When worship is rooted in testimony, it becomes unshakable.”*
- *“Worship is unstoppable; if human lips were closed, creation itself would cry out!”*
- *“The King has need of you — not for your perfection, but for your willingness.”*
- *“Our struggles don’t define us; rather, they refine us.”*

#### ACTION PROMPTS (choose 1–3 this week)

1. **Untie Step:** Identify one thing you’ve been protecting (time, money, influence, a strained relationship). Intentionally release it this week for kingdom use (invite someone to church, volunteer, or give a sacrificial gift) and tell one trusted friend or share it next week in group.
2. **Cloak Step:** Perform one visible act of surrender or honor (make a restorative phone call, give credit to someone publicly, or serve without seeking recognition). Report back in the next meeting what you did and how it made you feel.
3. **Protect the Praise:** Consider closing this meeting with 3–5 minutes of testimonies and encourage spontaneous praise by sharing something God has done that you’ve been witness to.
4. **Brave Clarity:** Have one courageous, loving conversation (apology, confession, or faith declaration) and share the outcome with your group.
5. **Cleanse Your Temple:** Spend 15–30 minutes this week praying and asking God to reveal one distraction or impurity to remove; take one concrete step to clear it.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank You for coming as King, for the ways You prepare, proclaim, and push back to bring life. Give us courage to untie what we hold, the humility to lay down our cloaks, and the boldness to tell Your story. Move in our hearts so every person here at CrossPointe grows deeper in faith, finds a small group to belong to, and invites others to meet You on Sunday. Heal what needs healing, cleanse what needs cleansing, and use our willingness for Your glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**PLEASE TAKE A GROUP PICTURE AND TAG PT (Franklin Tracy Pounders) and Tabatha Pankey ON FACEBOOK !!!**

**PLEASE TEXT THE CHURCH PHONE (910-426-0200) THIS WEEK and let us know if you use the Study Guides from PT’s sermons. If just one group is using them, I’ll keep making them. Thank you so much!**