

COVENANT — JESUS CHRIST

The Triumphal Entry

LESSON 09

MAY 03, 2026

LESSON TEXT

Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

FOCUS VERSES

Luke 19:36–38

³⁶**And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way.**

³⁷**And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;**

³⁸**Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.**

TRUTH ABOUT COVENANT

Jesus is the messianic King who sits on David's throne.

MY RESPONSE TO COVENANT

I will serve and pledge my allegiance to Jesus as my King.

COVENANT CONTEXT

As Jesus neared the end of His life on earth, everything had been pointing to that final week as He entered Jerusalem. Rather than enter as a conquering king on a white horse, Jesus fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy by riding on a colt, showing Himself to be a meek Messiah for all humanity. At the end of that week, Jesus would introduce the new covenant based not on Jewish law, but on His death, burial, and triumphant resurrection.

TEACHING OUTLINE

Icebreaker: What is the most memorable parade you have been to or involved in?

Teacher Tip: Connect the group's answers to the triumphal entry feeling like a parade for Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem.

Lesson Connection: Share the Lesson Connection.

DISCUSS: *What part of a parade is your favorite? How do our parades compare to the triumphal entry of Jesus?*

I. JESUS' PREPARATIONS

A. Jesus Fulfilled Prophecy

B. Jesus Came as a Peaceful King (**I**)

C. I will see Jesus for who He really is, not who I want Him to be.

***DISCUSS:** As we look at the Bible from beginning to end, how can we see the prophecies and their fulfillments are part of God's ultimate plan?*

II. JESUS' ARRIVAL

A. The People Cried Hosanna

B. The People Proclaimed Jesus as the Son of David (**V**)

***DISCUSS:** Given that God's covenants were given over a span of four thousand years, what do you think when you realize God remembered and kept His covenant the entire time?*

C. The Pharisees Complained

D. I will choose to follow Jesus wherever He leads me.

***DISCUSS:** If you feel comfortable, recount a dark time when you felt God's presence holding you up and seeing you through it.*

III. JESUS' SORROW

A. The People Rejoiced, But Jesus Wept

B. The New Covenant Is Bigger Than Jerusalem

C. I will serve and pledge my allegiance to Jesus as my King.

***DISCUSS:** How can we serve Jesus by honoring Him as the King of glory in practical ways today?*

Internalizing the Message

PRAYER FOCUS

Lead the group in prayer and consider the following topics of focus:

- For God to help us understand He is Jesus, the author of the New Covenant
- For God to help us receive everything He has promised us according to His Word

LESSON CONNECTION

Danny and Carol were jumping up and down at the front door, "Hurry, Mama and Daddy, the parade is going to start without us." Sarah and Scott could not remember when their children had been so excited. As they stood on their front porch, they could hear the marching band warming up. Thankfully it was a short walk to the center of town from their house. With lawn chairs in tow and extra snacks and drinks in the small ice chest, they were off.

Danny kept running ahead and then coming back to help speed up the process. Being the older sister, Carol was trying to be patient, but she was also anxious to find a perfect spot to watch the parade. Once they found their favorite spot, Scott unfolded the lawn chairs. Sarah pulled the ice chest closer for Carol to sit on, knowing Danny would end up on Scott's shoulders. It was a thrilling day for the children and more than satisfying for these loving parents to watch their children enjoy the parade. However, the children would not be able to understand the sacrifice their parents made until sometime later.

Only months later, Scott arrived at school to pick up the children and take them to the hospital, where their mom lay suffering from terminal cancer. "Today is a big day," she said with a weak smile as they inched closer to her bed.

She looked so tired. The children asked why it was a big day. They could not imagine how it could be a good day when they knew why their daddy had taken them out of school early. Sarah replied, “Today, Mama is going to a parade,” trying to sound cheerful through the pain and weakness. “You both have to promise me something.” Danny and Carol quickly nodded their heads. “You have to promise me you will join me someday at the best parade ever.” They both agreed as they looked at each other. They remembered the last great parade they had gone to. Now Mama was too weak to go anywhere, but in their young innocent minds, they looked forward to the parade she was promising them. They would do anything to go to another parade with Mama.

***DISCUSS:** What part of a parade is your favorite? How do our parades compare to Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem?*

BIBLE LESSON

I. JESUS’ PREPARATIONS

A. Jesus Fulfilled Prophecy

Jesus and His disciples headed into Jerusalem. Jesus described the events leading up to His crucifixion in great detail. His knowledge of what the future held could have only come from an omniscient God. Drawing close to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples into the village where He said they would find a new colt of a donkey tied. He told the disciples to untie it and bring it to Him. Jesus added that if anyone asked why they were taking the colt, they should respond exactly as He told them. Everything unfolded just as Jesus said. When onlookers asked why they were taking the colt, the disciples replied, “The Lord hath need of him,” and they were allowed to take the new unriden, colt to Jesus, just as the Lord had instructed (Mark 11:1–6).

Jesus fulfilled Zechariah 9:9, further demonstrating His omniscience and control by knowing about the colt and riding one that had never been ridden: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9, NKJV). Jesus was intentional. His miracles were to show them He was as much divine as He was human. (See I Timothy 3:16.) The signs and wonders were to help His people see He was indeed God in flesh.

B. Jesus Came as a Peaceful King

When the disciples returned, they threw their cloaks on the colt’s back as Jesus sat on him. The crowd along the impromptu parade route held their breath to see if this unbroken colt would buck against Jesus trying to ride it, but it didn’t. The colt simply started down the hill with Jesus, the one who created him, on his back. As the one-float parade began down the Mount of Olives, the disciples and others spread their clothes on the ground for Jesus to pass over. Some people cut palm branches from the trees and laid them on the ground for Jesus. The multitude was shouting and praising God, remembering all the amazing miracles and works He had done.

The coming of the Messiah was not in the majestic manner most of them believed it would be. They did not understand God’s plan was to come as the Savior for their sins, not as a regal king descending from Heaven to

rescue them from Roman rule. Thus, many of the Jews missed this defining moment of fulfilled prophecy.

(I) The prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 was also a picture of a peaceful King. Many did not realize this Jesus, who was born in a lowly manger, was God Almighty. They did not acknowledge that the one who performed miracles was the same “LORD that healeth thee” of the Old Testament (Exodus 15:26). His triumphal entry was a significant fulfillment of prophecy that He was both humble and victorious. He was a peaceful King, wooing His children to Him with love and mercy all the way from the manger to the cross.

C. I will see Jesus for who He really is, not who I want Him to be.

Zechariah’s prophecy came to pass just as God revealed. Not only did the prophecy mention the colt, but also that Jesus was just and had salvation. This celebration is known as Jesus’ triumphal entry, partly because of the worshipful response of the people but also because it was the week He entered Jerusalem to lay down His life in triumph over sin, hell, and the grave.

It is imperative we understand who Jesus really is. We can confess we live according to our own personal truth, but Jesus said: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). Jesus is our salvation. Truth comes only through Him. Today we rejoice that Jesus is who He claims to be, not some other idea we have created in our minds. We must learn a lesson from the crowd at the parade: we must let Jesus be who He said He is and do what He said He will do. Then, and only then, is He our Lord.

***DISCUSS:** As we look at the Bible from beginning to end, how can we see the prophecies and their fulfillments are part of God’s ultimate plan?*

II. JESUS’ ARRIVAL

A. The People Cried Hosanna

Many Jewish people had traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover. As Jesus slowly made His way through the streets of Jerusalem, many of them greeted Jesus with palm branches, shouting, “Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Mark 11:9). Doubtless some of the Jews knew that shout as a stanza of a familiar hymn for Passover, which concluded with a prayer: “Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD. God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar” (Psalm 118:26–27). It’s remarkable how the Bible comes together so beautifully.

The second part of this psalm hit a sober chord, foreshadowing Jesus’ selfless sacrifice. Jesus understood the prophecy in the Passover psalm was referring to His death. Many of these people knew the prophecies about a Messiah who would conquer, but they had forgotten the psalmist’s and Isaiah’s prophecies that He would triumph over sin and death through His own sinless death.

B. The People Proclaimed Jesus as the Son of David

As they followed the procession, many Jews proclaimed Jesus to be the Son of David. (See Mark 11:10.) They believed the Messiah would be a direct descendant from the lineage of King David. According to the Davidic covenant, God promised King David one of his descendants would reign over God’s people forever. (See II Samuel

7:8–16.) In both Matthew and Luke, the lineage of Jesus is recorded back through King David. Jesus is the messianic King who sits on David’s throne forevermore, thus fulfilling the Davidic covenant that God would always have a king on David’s throne.

(V) However, Jesus’ rule would extend to the whole world, not just to the Jews, which embraces the Abrahamic covenant to bless all nations. (See Genesis 12:1–3.) We can see this covenant unfold as some Greeks came to worship at the Passover Feast and asked to see Jesus as recorded in John 12. The door was opening to Gentiles, and the Abrahamic covenant was fulfilled. Then Jesus announced: “The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.” Jesus’ mission was almost complete. He would soon receive His glory, through His death, burial, and resurrection, as He ascended into Heaven. In Jesus the covenants God had made with Adam and with Abraham and with David were all being fulfilled.

***DISCUSS:** Given that God’s covenants were given over a span of four thousand years, what do you think when you realize God remembered and kept His covenant the entire time?*

C. The Pharisees Complained

As the Pharisees observed the triumphant procession of Jesus, they should have rejoiced as well. Instead, they were angry. They had tried everything to intercept this chaos. They were distraught that everything they had tried failed. They observed the people worshipping Jesus and exclaimed to each other: “Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him” (John 12:19). They asked Jesus to stop the people. Jesus responded that if He stopped the people from worshipping, the rocks would immediately cry out. (See Luke 19:40.)

D. I will choose to follow Jesus wherever He leads me.

The hunger we see in these people to be near Jesus should inspire us to move ever closer to Him. We must follow Jesus wherever He leads. We may not know His purpose or where He will take us, but be assured He has a plan. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11, NKJV). The psalmist promised that even when we walk through the dark valley of death, we have no fear; God will not leave us. We can put our trust in Him.

***DISCUSS:** If you feel comfortable, recount a dark time when you felt God’s presence holding you up and seeing you through it.*

III. JESUS’ SORROW

A. The People Rejoiced, But Jesus Wept

It was a joyous occasion. People surrounded Jesus, praising and worshipping Him with the disciples. As Jesus drew near Jerusalem, in the midst of the rejoicing, He began to weep, overcome with grief for His beloved people. Only a short time earlier, Jesus had to flee Jerusalem due to Herod’s threat on His life. As He left the city, Jesus cried out with a broken heart: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,...how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!” (Luke 13:34). Then returning to Jerusalem, in the midst of the people dancing and praising Him, Jesus let His tears of mercy fall. He looked upon His city and His people and

grieved over those who had no idea what they were doing and how it would bring about the city's downfall forty short years later. Jesus still saw many spreading their cloaks on the ground beneath Him and waving palms in honor of His arrival. Sadly, most of the Jewish leaders were conspicuously absent. The ones who had studied God's law for years were too busy plotting His arrest.

B. The New Covenant Is Bigger Than Jerusalem

Some of the religious leaders were concerned Jesus was trying to destroy the Law, but Jesus clearly stated He came to fulfill the Law, not destroy it. (See Matthew 5:17.) The Jewish leaders had not fostered a pure relationship with God because many of them were corrupt and antagonistic toward Jesus—so caught up with the power of Rome, they neglected their purpose in God's kingdom. The Jews were called to be a light to the Gentiles. Their minds were set on a rescue operation from Roman oppression, and they gloated to think the Messiah would make Rome suffer.

The current events would take on a deeper meaning after Jesus ascended because God's plan was greater than Jerusalem or Rome. His plan was not exclusively to the Jewish people. The coming of Jesus ushered in the new covenant for *all* people. It was the whole gospel to the whole world.

C. I will serve and pledge my allegiance to Jesus as my King.

We must remember why Jesus came to this earth. His mission was for us. From the manger to the grave, Jesus' purpose was to fulfill the Law and become the perfect sacrifice for our sins. In doing so, He would close the gap between the Garden of Eden (the site of the first sin) to the introduction of the new covenant. Let us lay down our coats and cloaks and pick up the palm branches and shout as the parade goers shouted: "Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." He alone is our King and He is the only one worthy of our allegiance, our devotion, our worship.

***DISCUSS:** How can we serve Jesus by honoring Him as the King of glory in practical ways today?*

***Teacher Option:** Tell the story below or share one of your own to illustrate how our arrival in Heaven will exceed the celebration of a parade. The following story may be a continuation of the Lesson Connection or a stand-alone story.*

INTERNALIZING THE MESSAGE

Danny and Carol had a lifetime to realize what their mother was asking of them when she was on her deathbed. Losing their mother at a young age put a damper on their childhood fantasies. The ultimate parade, like they had imagined, was not to be, but a better one was waiting for them. They both learned about Jesus and how He was in a parade just before He died on Calvary. He also admonished His beloved children to wait for Him and come to His parade in Heaven.

Another parade? What are we talking about? There is no parade in the Bible. Oh yes there is. Jesus' triumphal entry was a parade. It was a celebration of freedom likened to the time when the children of Israel were set free from slavery in Egypt. The Passover was a time of remembering how God passed over the Israelites' homes when He

slew their firstborn children. Each Hebrew household obediently applied blood from their sacrificial lamb to the door posts as Moses had commanded. The Lord passed over the houses that had blood on their doorposts.

Jesus came as the perfect sacrifice for all our sins. Jesus' purpose was to take the place of the carefully selected, unblemished animals His people brought before the Lord as burnt offerings under the old Law. The old covenant was not abolished; it was fulfilled when Jesus—the spotless, sinless sacrifice—took the place of all the past sacrifices. This new covenant will last until Jesus returns a second time in the heavens.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:3). Everything Jesus did was preparing His children to go to the place He has prepared for us in Heaven. We may not realize or be able to comprehend all the wonderful things God has in store for us, but today we can take the necessary steps to ensure our attendance at His heavenly parade.