

The Vine

A Bird's Eye View

Read Luke chapters 21 through 24. This gets you all the way through the Gospel of Luke. You have finished the whole book! Celebrate this. Skim through the whole book and take note of any themes that run throughout the entire book.

Week Six: The King Is Announced

March 9 - March 15, 2008

The victory lap for the driver who won the race. The ticker-tape parade for the World Series Champs. The first time a married couple is announced at the wedding reception, "Now I'd like to present, Mr. and Mrs. So-And-So." These are all events where the crowd cheers the presentation or the entrance of something to be honored and celebrated. But nothing we have in our culture compares to the historic days when a king would come into a city. In this week's Vine, we are looking at the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry when He enters Jerusalem. In some ways He is received like a king, in some ways He is not.

Enjoy your time in scripture. Don't be rushed. Let the Word of God soak in today. Notice how you approach your time with the Lord. What helps you clear your mind? What distracts you? Spend a few moments in prayer asking the Lord to prepare you for what He has for you this week.

First Encounter

Read Luke 19:28-48

If you were the disciples sent on the errand in verse 29, how would you feel as you started the errand? As you finished? Why?

What does the acquiring of the colt say about Jesus' understanding of events?

How would you paint the picture of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem? What would be a modern day equivalent?

The Colt

The idea that the messiah would come into Jerusalem on a colt comes from Zechariah 9. Find this book in your Bible. It is near the end of the Old Testament. Look at Zechariah 9:9-11. It even mentions peace for the nations and blood of the covenant. If you were familiar with this passage and saw Jesus coming into Jerusalem, what would you think?

There are different groups to consider here. What might Jesus' disciples be feeling as they are entering with Jesus? How do you think Jesus feels about this kind of entrance?

In the Old Testament, when King Jehu was anointed king, 2 Kings 9:13 says, "They hurried and took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, 'Jehu is king!'" Luke 19:38 quotes Psalm 118. Look at Psalm 118:25-29. As the people put their cloaks on the road and quoted this verse, what were they thinking about Jesus? What were they hoping Jesus would do next?

The King is announced! What is your reaction to Jesus the King?

Prayer Reflection: Invite the Lord to reign as King of your heart. King of every part of you. Spend some time to rightly honor Him as King of your life and King of all.

Second Encounter

Read Luke 19:28-48 concentrating on verses 39 to 44.

What is the reaction of the Pharisees? Why ask Jesus to rebuke them?

What if Jesus stopped them, what would happen?

Why does Jesus weep? What precisely did they do wrong? What was the result?



What response resonates more with you? The people? The Pharisees? The stones that can't help but cry out?

The Temple

Like the CIA headquarters, the Temple had different areas that required different credentials for access. The Holy of Holies being the most secure with only a handful of people able to enter. Then there was the area for Jewish men to worship. Outside of that was the area for Jewish women to worship. Further out still was the area for God-fearers from all over the world to come and worship Yahweh. But if you came from another nation, you would have to exchange your currency for currency accepted in the Temple. This exchange was done right at the Temple. "The exchange had a built-in surcharge, a portion of which may have gone to the high priest's family." (Bock, Darrell, Luke, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series, IVP, 1994, p317) It was these tables that Jesus overturned.

Third Encounter

Read all of Luke 19:28-48

Read it carefully. Why is Jesus fired up here?

Look at Isaiah 56:4-8. Jesus quotes part of this passage. How does this passage fuel Jesus' anger?

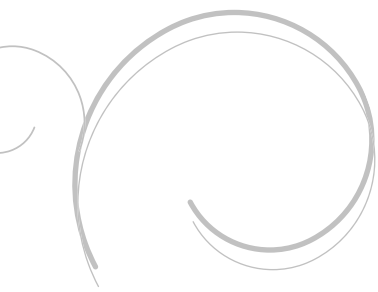
How are the religious leaders responding to Jesus? Is there any way they are right in responding that way? What are they waiting for?


Prayer Reflection: Pray that the Lord will make you smart as a stone today. Smart enough that you have no choice but to praise Jesus as King of all. King of all in your life.

Small Group Guide

NOTE: This is a guide. The following questions are designed for you to choose the ones that best apply to your group. Feel free to add to these questions or reword them as you prayerfully prepare for your small group.

1. Discuss a time when anyone in the group was in a parade of any kind. Describe it. How did they feel?
2. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, discuss how the different groups may have reacted. The disciples, Judas, Jesus himself, the Pharisees, even the stones. Discuss what each group may have right or may have wrong in their understanding.
3. How much should we model Jesus in weeping for those who miss the coming of the King? How much should we weep for our city?
4. In clearing the Temple, what does Jesus say about Himself and about His ministry?
5. Look at Isaiah 56:4-8. It will be a house for what purpose? Instead of this, what was happening in the temple? In the Isaiah passage, what happens to the sacrifice of the foreigner? How does Jesus see them treating people from other nations? How do we sometimes do this same thing in the church today? Why does this upset Jesus so much (both then and now)?
6. This section has several quotes and allusions to the Old Testament. What does this say about the passage?





7. **Optional:** If you have time, look at the parable in Luke 19:11-27. How does this parable set up Jesus' entry into Jerusalem?

8. How does this passage prepare our hearts for Easter? What is your view of the King? Who are you weeping for? What is God calling you to do in those relationships? What if you had lunch with them and told them about Jesus? What if you invited them to the Easter service? As a group chat and pray about this as specifically as you can.

Written by The Vine Team.
Email thevine@kcconline.org
with comments or questions.
We would love to hear what
you think about it. We are also
looking for people willing to
help create The Vine. If this
interests you, let us know.

