

Luke 19:28-44
Triumph and Tragedy

Warm Up

What is the most 'triumphant' moment you have witnessed or been a part of? 1966 world cup win? A royal wedding or coronation? Amongst the celebrations were there moments of poignancy?

Background and context

Palm Sunday is a key moment in the gospel story. The culmination of three years of ministry. The beginning of the end of Jesus' time on earth. At this moment Jesus proclaims Himself King of Israel, the Messiah, the one whom all Israel had been waiting for. However, He was not the King that many were expecting. He was not a warrior come to upset the rule of Rome. Instead, He fulfilled the prophecies of Zechariah riding a humble beast of burden. The story is full of contrasts; amongst the celebrations there is cynicism and sadness, acceptance and rejection, triumph and tragedy.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Luke 19:28-44. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. **Read Luke 5:1-5.** How does Peter's initial response to Jesus' request compare to the two disciples in v30-34, being asked to fetch a donkey without knowing why? What has changed? Why has it changed?
2. **Read v30.** Do you think there is significance in the fact the colt had never been ridden? What is the symbolism?
3. **Read v35.** What did people sacrifice in order to acknowledge Jesus as King? What have you sacrificed in acknowledging Jesus as Lord and King?
4. **Read v39.** Why were the Pharisees upset by the crowd's praises? How does that relate to the way some people respond to Jesus today?
5. **Read v40.** Why will the stones cry out? What is the message Jesus is giving?
6. **Read v41-44.** What would bring Jerusalem peace? How will Jerusalem ultimately reject peace? What stirs you to tears of sadness in this world?
7. **In AD 70** Jesus' prophecy comes true. Jerusalem is besieged and the temple destroyed. Why is this significant?
8. **Read Ephesians 2:21-22.** What has replaced the old temple? How does that make you feel?

Discipleship and Application



9. How can you be more humble like Christ? How can you worship more genuinely like the disciples? How can you be more obedient and less cynical or mistrusting?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.