



The Gospel of Luke



Week 20 **LEADER** Discussion Questions
Week of 2/19/23

Text: Luke 19:28-44

Icebreaker: As Easter weekend approaches, what could your LifeGroup do to help serve at the Egg Hunt or one of the Sunday services? Reach out to your campus Community Life team if you have questions.

All our LifeGroups are *Biblical Communities on Mission*, meaning that we don't want to just be in community with each other (like a stamp club), or a bible reading club (a holy huddle), but that we want to be a loving, Christ-centered community that focuses on God's Word in our discussions and in loving others with our actions. One way we love others is by serving purposefully (i.e., mission), and what an opportunity when we can be a part of Calvary's Easter Weekend outreach!

1. In recent weeks, we've seen Jesus's resolve to get to Jerusalem, even though he knows what awaits him there (e.g., 18:31-34). Would it matter if Jesus either was reluctant to get there or was caught off guard once he was there? Why?

The gospel would be something less than good news because Jesus would have been either reluctant to die for us or he would have been an unwilling victim in his death since he wasn't aware it was going to happen. Instead, the gospel includes the fact that Jesus determined to die and was crucified only because he subjected himself to it (see Eph 1:3-10 and Phil 2:5-11).X

2. Jesus directs his disciples in verses 28-34. Imagine being in their position to carry out these instructions. Would you have some doubt about whether things would go exactly as Jesus described? Why or why not?

Jesus is fully aware of every detail of what's about to happen. It is possible that Jesus had pre-arranged to have a specific donkey ready; however, Luke's description of the events seems to indicate that this was a case of Jesus demonstrating his omniscience. It also displays Jesus's sovereignty over future events. He knows the future, but he also governs it.

Application: What difference does it make for your life that Jesus is able to know even details that have not yet happened?

3. Read Zechariah 9:9 and Psalm 118:26. Why is it significant that the details unfolding in Luke 18 were alluded to centuries earlier in the Old Testament?

There's a repetitive theme here! The events surrounding Jesus's arrival into Jerusalem were not a series of random events. This was all God's plan from ages past. These passages also help us see the magnitude of what's going on. These events were important in the moment, but their full impact was of a much greater scale since this is what the Prophets and Psalms wrote about.

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to loving God and loving others.*

Application: Verse 37 tells us that Jesus is being praised “for all the mighty works that [the multitude of disciples] had seen.” In our series so far, which “mighty works” of Jesus have stood out to you most? Why?

4. Verses 39-40 remind us that not everyone is celebrating the moment. Why do the Pharisees want Jesus to rebuke his disciples?

The Pharisees don't believe Jesus is the Messiah, so the words of praise toward him must be silenced. Jesus's response reminds us of other places where inanimate things are said to testify to God's justice when there's no one else around who will do it (see Gen 4:10 or Jas 5:4).

Application: Have you encountered situations where others wanted you to stop worshipping Jesus? Could Jesus's exchange here with the Pharisees help encourage us to keep praising him even when others want us to stop?

5. In verses 41-44, how would you describe Jesus's heart toward Jerusalem? Why does he have such emotion toward the city and its people?

Jesus loves the city and its inhabitants. Think of all of Israel's history, going back to Exodus. God had made a covenant through Moses with Israel, provided for them, blessed them, and preserved them even through judgment in Assyria and Babylon. God had poured out his favor on the people, but they ultimately rejected him. Jesus—“the image of the invisible God” (Col 1)—is now looking over the city he has established and blessed and his heart is broken like a parent's over a rebellious, stubborn child.

Application: Think about your own city, whether it's Thornton, Erie, or Boulder. What do you think Jesus's heart is toward it, and in what ways do you think our church is expressing that heart?

6. Looking at verse 42, what is Jesus's desire for Jerusalem and all of Israel? What kept them from experiencing it?

His desire is that the city would have experienced peace. This is most likely tied in with the OT idea of “shalom,” which means far more than a lack of conflict. It's the experience of a complete relational wholeness with God, with other people, and with the creation—what Adam and Eve experienced prior to the Fall.

Application: How do we pursue these things today that Israel failed to pursue then?

In simple terms, obedience to the commands of Jesus lead us to this kind of peace. It might be worth examining how past or present failures to live obediently to Jesus have robbed us of some sense of peace in our lives.

NOTE: Verses 43-44 refer to the fall of Jerusalem. Commentator Darrel Bock explains it this way:

“In A.D. 70, Titus of Rome overran the city. The final act was a great siege, the essence of which Jesus summarizes here. Anyone who knows how Rome took large cities can describe what Jesus does here. His prophetic insight is his understanding of what their rejection of the Messiah will cost them.”

Darrell L. Bock, *Luke*, ed. Terry C. Muck, [The NIV Application Commentary](#). (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996), 495.

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