

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

“Toward the Cross” Easter Series

These questions are for the **March 24, 2024** message, “Arrival in Jerusalem.” Please read the sermon passage (Luke 19:28-44) together out loud.

Passage Outline

AS JESUS MAKES HIS WAY TOWARD THE CROSS . . .

1. He is in control of every detail (28-35)
 - a. Jesus sets off the course of events which will lead him to be crucified.
 - i. His entrance and reception in Jerusalem is clearly prophesied.
 1. 1 Kings 1: like Solomon, Jesus, the son of David, rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, is coronated amidst enemies, and received with loud favor.
 2. Zechariah 9:9: “Behold! Your king is coming to you!”
 - ii. Jesus arriving on a donkey indicates that he has come in peace.
 - b. Everyone, in every age and situation will find everything “just as [Jesus says].” (32)
2. His true disciples receive him in the presence of open hostility (36-40)
 - a. The crowd is made up of “the whole multitude of his disciples.”
 - i. They rejoice loudly and openly as they receive Jesus publicly.
 - ii. They lay down their cloaks (symbols of their whole lives) in submission.
 - b. The Pharisees in the crowd told Jesus to “rebuke” this energetic reception / parade.
3. He weeps for those who will not receive his peace. (41-44)
 - a. Jesus came to bring peace, but the Pharisees, representing the Jewish people . . .
 - i. Did not know what peace was, or the things that bring peace. (42)
 - ii. Did not know that Jesus, standing before them, is the only Peacemaker. (44)
 - b. Those who reject Jesus invite and embrace judgment. (43-44)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Jesus, knowing that the next several days would bring him to the Cross and crucifixion, boldly and sovereignly calls for the donkey which is ready for him and fulfills prophecy. Respond to this principle: everyone in every age and situation will find everything “just as [Jesus says].”
2. Based on #2, above: Our response to Jesus, receiving him with joy and love, will always be the minority view and often bring chastisement, criticism and worse. Do you think that others see and feel joy, courage and certainty about your relationship with Jesus? Have you ever experienced a “rebuke”? How did you handle it?
3. Based on #3, above: Jesus weeps for those who reject him, and warns them of judgment to come. Some of us might be prone to one or the other—either compassion or warning. Why are both required?
4. This whole event is about peace, conceived and offered from heaven should be our greatest treasure. Embracing this peace calms many other conflicts. How are you growing in treasuring the peace from heaven, in Jesus, as your greatest possession? (Matt 18:21-35)