



Sermon-Based Study Guide  
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Good Shepherd Church - April 1, 2012

Palm Sunday

Sermon Title: Laud and Lament

Sermon Text: Luke 19.28-44

Related Texts: Zechariah 9.9-13; Psalm 118.1-29

## I. Start It – Connecting With One Another

As you begin, take a few moments to check in with one another. How have you experienced God's presence during this season of Lent?

## II. Introduction

We come once again to the events that unfold in the city of Jerusalem. It's the annual celebration of the Passover and pilgrims from throughout the Middle East have flocked to the city to participate in the feast that recalls God delivering the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. God's divine act of redemption and deliverance shaped a deep and abiding hope of the Messiah, God's Anointed One, coming to set Israel free from her oppressors (the Romans), entering the city as a conquering King, and establishing God's reign on earth.

## III. Study the Text – Read Through Luke 19.28-44

- 1) Luke's account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is framed by the words of Jesus found in Luke 18.31-35 and the expectations of the people recorded in Luke 19.11. Take a look at those passages.
  - a. Why would the disciples be so bewildered about what is to happen to Jesus (Luke 18.31-35)? How do you think you would have reacted to what he said?
  - b. The people's expectation in Luke 19.11 (and that of the disciples, no doubt) was that the Messiah would come with great power and majesty, like a mighty warrior-king, defeat all the political and military enemies of Israel, and set-up his rule over all the earth. Do you think this was a realistic expectation? Why or why not?
- 2) Look at the description of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem - Luke 19.28-40, but first, look at verse 28.
  - a. Take a quick look at John 11.1-44 to see what event had just taken place in Bethany. What do you imagine the "buzz" about Jesus to be in that village and surrounding areas?

- b. By the way, did you notice how Luke describes Jesus - "he went on ahead..." Do you picture Jesus going ahead of you through the journey of life? Are you able and willing to trust in and yield to Jesus' leadership daily?
- 3) In verses 29-36 Jesus gives some specific instructions to his disciples and they obey them.
- a. What do you think made the disciples willing to do what he directed them to do?
- b. The title "Lord" was used by the Jews in reference to God. Do you think Jesus is using it to refer to himself? Why or why not? If he is, what is significant about that?
- c. Take a look at Zechariah 9.9-13. What is the significance of the colt that had never been ridden and thereby ceremonially clean?
- d. What is Jesus proclaiming about himself by entering Jerusalem this way? What does it suggest about the nature of the Kingdom he is bringing?
- 4) In verses 37 and 38 Luke describes the crowd's reaction. Before looking at this, read Psalm 118.1-29. This Psalm had great significance among the pilgrims gathered for the Passover festival. In fact, Psalms 113 through 118 were recited by the people throughout this time of celebration. Psalm 118 depicts a procession to the Temple in celebration of a king's victory. The Jews may have expected that the Messiah would enter the Temple speaking Psalm 118.5-21 to which the people would respond with Psalm 118.22-29. Then the Messiah would take hold of the horns of the altar and in doing so declare himself to be King.
- a. Do you think the crowd saw Jesus as this long-expected King?
- b. If so, do you imagine they may have been confused by his riding on a donkey leading a dozen disciples instead of riding a mighty war-horse leading a grand military force?
- 5) In verses 39 and 40 Jesus is confronted by and responds to the Pharisees.
- a. How did the Pharisees feel about the crowd treating Jesus like the Messiah?
- b. How did Jesus respond to being acclaimed Messiah?
- 6) Verses 41-44 move from the lauding of the crowd to the lamenting of Jesus over the city of Jerusalem. Here Luke describes Jesus approaching the city and catching a glimpse of it only to react with tears and lamentation. Is it that his first sight of the city brought to mind that in 40 years it would be utterly destroyed by Rome?
- a. What was hidden from the people of Jerusalem that would have brought them peace (Verse 42 and 44)?
- b. How would it have brought them peace?

#### IV. Reflect and Respond

- 1) Reflect on the scene of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as Luke describes it. What does it reveal about the nature of Jesus the Messiah? What kind of "King" is he? How is his Kingdom both internal (in human hearts) and external (impacting cultures, values, and human relations)?
- 2) Have you sincerely embraced Jesus as leader or "King" in your life?
- 3) What specific ways will you respond to Jesus' leadership today? Any particular prayers or actions?