



3-25-18 Sermon Discussion Guide

“The Road to Jerusalem Completed”



Context

Throughout the season of Lent, we are walking with Jesus on his journey to the cross, on the road to Jerusalem. In Luke 9:51, it says that Jesus resolutely set his face toward Jerusalem. Each week, we'll get one step closer to Jerusalem, to the cross, and learn from Jesus along the way. While taking this journey, we'll take an extra look at the geography and history of this journey – using maps and pictures of the Holy Land.

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

Think about the end of a long journey. It's always filled with emotion. Reflect on a long journey or trip in your life. What emotions did you feel at the end of it? Relief? Exhaustion? Excitement? Anxiety? There is so much potential in those final moments of a journey.

Discussing the Text – Luke 19:28-44 (Parallel texts: Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, John 12:12-19)

1. After you read our passage in Luke, skim the passages from the other Gospel accounts. Compare each version of this same story. What does Luke's version include that the others don't? What is missing in Luke's version that's present in other versions?
2. Luke 19:41 says that Jesus wept. This is one of two places in the Bible that record Jesus weeping. What do you think moved Jesus to cry? What clues are there in the passage?
3. Do you think the destruction Jesus describes in Luke 19:41-44 is a warning or a curse? How can you tell? What difference does it make? Does it make a difference if we know that what Jesus described came true in AD 70?
4. In Luke 19:38, Jesus' followers call him a king, while in Matthew's version, he's called a prophet. What do these two images of Jesus teach about what Jesus was doing in his ministry? How is he our king and how is he our prophet?

So what?

1. Toward the beginning of this story, Jesus has his disciples procure a donkey for him. The animal's owners simply let the disciples take it for Jesus' purposes. Have you ever had an experience where God used what you have for purposes? If so, how did it go? What did you learn through it?
2. In verse 40, Jesus says that if people are silent, even the rocks will cry out. What does this teach about Jesus' power and majesty? What does this teach us about worship? Does God need our worship? Does Jesus?
3. We see Jesus weeping over the fate of Israel in this passage. What do you think breaks God's heart today? Why do you think so?
4. Some of the same people who proclaimed Jesus' praises on this Sunday were those who proclaimed Jesus' condemnation just 5 days later. What do you think made them change their minds? What does this imply about the human condition? Have you ever experienced a reversal in how you've felt about Jesus? If so, what made those changes?

Prayer

Have the group share any prayer requests or prayers of thanksgiving they may have. Then invite the group to spend time in silent confession of their sins, both today and this week.