

Palm Sunday

Matt VanCleave

March 24th, 2024

We would like your feedback!

Please answer this brief survey to help us provide you with a better small group experience!

<https://forms.gle/1miQBLuCAeKLC1qc7>

Review Last Week's Next Steps

- ☐ I will talk to people about what Jesus is doing in my life.
- ☐ I will ask someone who is having a problem, "Can I pray for you?"
- ☐ I will carry the message to others by sharing my story.
- ☐ I will bring someone with me on Easter Sunday.
- ☐ I will invite someone to serve with me.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

In Luke 19 Jesus says, "You did not recognize the time of God's coming." The question I want us to reflect on is, "Do we recognize him over two thousand years later?"

It's easy to recognize Jesus when things are going great. But do we recognize Jesus when we're at the bottom, when it's tough or when we're not getting what we want?

Jesus weeps over Jerusalem. He weeps over a people who don't recognize him. I want us to consider what Jesus might be weeping over in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

x

1. When Jesus heard that his beloved friend Lazarus had died, on the way to Jerusalem he visited Bethany where Lazarus used to live. When he saw Lazarus's sisters and friends mourning over the death of Lazarus, "**Jesus wept** (John 11:35)". Witnessing Jesus in sorrow and seeing the heart of God break through the life of Jesus, what aspect does this add to your image and understanding of God's character?

2. As Jesus was entering Jerusalem, multitudes of people who traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover were celebrating Jesus' arrival rejoicing and shouting "Hosanna!" and waving palm leaves, which was a symbol of resistance against the Greek occupation. They thought that Jesus was the Messiah who would overthrow the Roman imperialists and liberate Israel from oppression and suffering. In the middle of this festivity, Scripture says, **"As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it. (Luke 19:41)"** In the middle of rejoicing and worship, why do we see the brokenhearted God?

3. Please read Luke 19:41-44.

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."
(Luke 19:41-44)

Pastor Matt mentioned that about forty years from then Rome overtook the city of Jerusalem completely, and almost everyone in the city was either killed or taken into captivity. Jesus was weeping for a people who did not recognize the Messiah even in their worship. Why did people in Jerusalem fail to see Jesus for who he was and what he came for?

4. Why did the people have misconceptions about the role of the Messiah?

5. Can we recognize Jesus if he came to us now?
6. What aspects of your life would Jesus be weeping over right now? Please take a moment to think about it.
7. Can you intentionally let your life be what it was created to be: an act of worship to God? Can you choose to recognize Jesus and reflect Jesus not only when you see him as who forgives our sins but also when he asks you to take up the cross to follow him? If we cannot recognize Jesus in our lives, what should we do to be able to see him?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- ☐ I will consider what Jesus might be weeping over in my life.
- ☐ I will take action steps to make it right.
- ☐ I will not be outdone by rocks in my worship this Easter.
- ☐ I will bring someone to an Easter service next Sunday.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

John 11:35
Luke 19:29-34
John 1:29
Luke 19:38
Zechariah 9:9
Luke 19:38

Psalms 118:26
John 12:13
Luke 19:39
Luke 19:40
Luke 19:41
Luke 19:41-44

Prayer Request(s)

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