

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

SESSION IN A SENTENCE: When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people praised Him for the wrong reasons, but through the cleansing of the temple, Jesus showed how He would bring about true worship through His people.

BACKGROUND PASSAGE: Luke 19:28-48

Every Saturday in the fall, large worship gatherings take place in football stadiums throughout the United States. Tens of thousands of people gather and declare the worth of their favorite teams. Chants and songs are yelled from the lips of many. People proudly wear the colors of their teams, arrive early with anticipation, and even throw parties before the game. Hands are raised. Tears are shed. Spontaneous moments of joy and celebration occur. Money is offered. Hours are invested. College football is a big deal.

How does the worship of God compare and contrast with the worship that goes on during football games?

Group Time

Point 1: Jesus is the Messiah who receives praise from His people (Luke 19:35-40).

³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, He was fulfilling a prophecy from Zechariah 9:9, one of many prophecies about the Messiah, and the crowd of disciples recognized His kingly position by praising Jesus in the words of Psalm 118:26. The Pharisees, a group of religious elites, however, objected to the proceedings and praises. Jesus told them that the stones would

cry out if the people did not worship Him. In essence, Jesus was saying that He will be worshiped, and rightly so—He is the prophesied Messiah-King and He is God.

What are some reasons we have for worshipping the King who comes in the name of the Lord?

God created people who must be worshipers. Every single person on earth is worshipping something today. Some worship Jesus. Some worship their jobs. Some worship a relationship. Some worship material possessions. All of us worship. We can't help it. In the core of our being, we are worshipers. Yet we are only satisfied when we worship the One who created us. So Jesus received the worship of the crowd as our great and good God.

What are some things we are tempted to worship in place of Jesus?

Point 2: Jesus is the Messiah who weeps for His people (Luke 19:41-44).

⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side ⁴⁴ and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Jesus not only received worship as God, He claimed to be God when He said His visit to Jerusalem was God visiting the city (v. 44). God in the flesh rode up to Jerusalem on a humble donkey and He wept, not for Himself and the brutal treatment He would soon receive but for the consequences that would later befall the city because of their rejection of Him. Not only is Jesus the God who receives worship from His people but He is also the God who weeps for His people.

Voices from Church History

“We see in this description of the desolation and temporal confusion of those in Jerusalem ... a figure of the spiritual confusion which will come on those who even now will not receive [Jesus Christ] ... Those who think they will be saved by any other means than by him and who have their faith and hope in any other than in him and by him, surely they have not yet received him, and evil will come to them.” 1

–Richard Taverner (c. 1505-1575)

How should Jesus’ weeping for Jerusalem affect our perspective of sinners who do not know Jesus by faith?

What is your level of concern for those who do not know Jesus by faith?

Point 3: Jesus is the Messiah who restores true worship through His people (Luke 19:45-46).

⁴⁵ And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, ⁴⁶ saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of robbers.”

Jesus was angered often by the hypocrisy of religious leaders who pulled people away from God with their self-centered traditions. He was gracious and gentle with those who were called “tax collectors and sinners” but fierce with those who gave the impression that they worshiped God yet their hearts were far from Him. The temple scene that Jesus observed angered Him because of the toxic mix of hypocrisy and exploitation. Instead of the temple bringing people to God, people were prevented from encountering Him. God was being dishonored in the temple, the place that was to be a house of prayer. So Jesus did something about it to restore the hope for true worship.

What are some ways we may hinder others in their worship of God?

Worship: The aim and focus of worship is _____

, giving Him the exact due of praise and adoration that He deserves. Corporate worship serves to _____

and _____

other Christians, but it also serves as a _____

to non-believers of the greatness of God.

After Christ came and died for us, the temple and sacrificial system were fulfilled because they pointed to Jesus. While the Lord met with His people in the temple in the Old Testament, the Lord has now moved into our lives in the Holy Spirit. We don't just meet with Him in a building somewhere—He lives within us. We don't worship Him in a certain location—we worship Him now and everywhere. We, both individually and corporately, are the temple of His Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20).

How can our lives reflect God's desire for His temple in the Old Testament?

My Mission

Because we know Jesus as our Savior and King, we put away hypocritical and hollow worship and exalt Him for who He truly is—the Son of God who came to take away the sins of the world.

- How will you demonstrate your faith in Jesus the Messiah-King, who is worthy of your worship?
- What are some ways your group or church can encourage and foster the worship of Jesus?
- Whose sinful state causes you to grieve, and how will you share the gospel as the remedy?

Voices from the Church

“For worship is, essentially, the reverse of sin. Sin began (and begins) when we succumb to the temptation, ‘You shall be as gods.’ We make ourselves the center of the universe and dethrone

God. By contrast, worship is giving God his true worth; it is acknowledging Him to be the Lord of all things, and the Lord of everything in our lives. He is, indeed, the Most High God!" 2

–Sinclair Ferguson [LifeWay Adults (2020). (p. 52). The Gospel Project: Adult Daily Discipleship Guide - ESV - Fall 2020. LifeWay Press. Retrieved from <https://read.lifeway.com>]