

THE HARDEST PART

No Stone Unturned!



GROWTH GUIDE APRIL 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40

AUTHOR

Luke, a Gentile, Greek, doctor, close friend and companion of the Apostle Paul. Luke was a historian, put great emphasis on dates and details, and connected Jesus to events and people in history. Luke's purpose was to present an accurate account of the life of Jesus. He stressed Jesus' relationships with people, gave a prominent place to women and showed Jesus' concern for women. Luke wrote his gospel around A.D. 60, from Rome or possibly from Caesarea, and it is the most comprehensive of the gospels.

CONTEXT

Jesus continued his ministry, teaching with parables, healing lepers, teaching about the coming of the Kingdom of God, and bringing salvation to the home of Zacchaeus. Now Jesus arrives in Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowd. He knows he has days to live....

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 19:28-40 and compare to Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, and John 12:12-19. How do the gospels differ in their telling of this story? What kind of Messiah were the people expecting?
2. Read Zechariah 9:9. How is Jesus described here? This prophecy predicted Jesus' triumphal entry 500 years before it happened.
3. Do you think the disciples were surprised that the details of finding the donkey all happened as Jesus said they would? Did the disciples at that point fully grasp who Jesus was? Did they understand that this was the beginning of the end? The last week of Jesus' life?

4. What do you think upset the Pharisees in Luke 19:39? What was Jesus' response?
5. Before you became a follower of Christ, what did you expect or know of Jesus? Have you been surprised by what you've learned about him, the grace he has shown you, or how he has revealed himself to you? If comfortable share what Jesus means to you as the Messiah and how you've seen him work in your life and others.
6. What do you think your response would have been to Jesus in his day? What is your response now on Palm/ Passion Sunday?
7. The Season of Lent is coming to an end soon. What have you learned this year about Lent? About yourself? Is there anything you would do differently or are you satisfied with your experience?
8. After today, it is tempting to skip to Easter but don't gloss over the time between Palm Sunday and Easter. We must walk slowly with Jesus in his final footsteps to fully understand the sorrow and pain he experienced and to be reminded of what he did for us. This week on your own, read through Luke 22-23, slowly. How might we spend these final days, walking in solidarity with Jesus' suffering?
9. Once Easter is over, how will you continue your journey with Jesus?
10. Read John 3:16 and offer thanks for the gift of eternal life.

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