

## Dundonald Youth: Luke

Week 2: The King arrives in Jerusalem!

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**Open in prayer:** Ask God to be with you, speaking to you through his word, helping you to trust Jesus Christ.

**BEFORE THIS STUDY - listen to Pete TG talk - 'Youth Bible Series 2'**

**Starter Question:** If you got 'King' in a game of Pictionary, what would you draw? Why?

**Read Luke 19:28-36.**

Does anything stand out to you? What do you find interesting or surprising?

Why do you think Luke includes these details? One of the main details is that Jesus decides to ride in to Jerusalem on a colt = a young donkey = a peaceful animal. He didn't ride into Jerusalem on a war horse (imagine those terrifying horses in Lord of the Rings!?) because truly Jesus is the Prince of PEACE. Notice also Jesus' CONTROL - events unfold *exactly* (word for word!) as he says, this isn't random.... in fact, read Zechariah 9:9<sup>1</sup> to see that in fact this is all FULFILLING scripture...

**Read Luke 19:36-40.** What do you notice about this scene? What was the atmosphere like? What would you have heard, if you'd been there that day? Jesus' followers are 'joyfully praising God'! They've seen his power and miracles, they believe he is God's King - maybe they're expecting a people's revolution, or fire from heaven...

When Jesus was born the Angels praised God (Luke 2:14) and now it is humans turn to rejoice in the exact same themes of PEACE & GLORY. God's King is here! Zechariah 9:9 is being fulfilled!

However not everyone is rejoicing... (v39). The religious leaders realise the significance of what is happening and they are *jealous* of Jesus' status with his Jewish followers, and they're *afraid* of the Romans hearing that the Jews have a 'new King' that could challenge Caesar. They're happy with the religious status quo and don't want the boat rocking... but Jesus says (v40) that God's King *must* be praised - and if the disciples didn't then the *stones* would cry out in worship!!

**Read Luke 19:41-44.** Why does Jesus weep for Jerusalem? Jerusalem was the Jews holy city, synonymous with God & his temple & his people, but they had chosen the wrong path (demonstrated by their leaders in 19:39 & 19:47...) and their rejection of Jesus would result in their judgement and destruction. Jesus *longed for* repentance and God's peace, but despite 'God coming to them' (v44) Jerusalem symbolised rejection and rebellion and death. Within a week Jesus would be killed, and within 40 years the Roman's would totally destroy Jerusalem and the temple (just as Jesus said v43) as God's divine judgement upon them.

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<sup>1</sup> Use the contents page in your bible, or if you're googling the verse search for the 'NIV' translation. If you don't have a physical bible do let me know and we will get one to you!

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### Applying the passage

1. What is the right response to God's King? Do you see this in your own life / heart? Jesus' 'Triumphal Entry' into Jerusalem was a picture and pointer towards the great final day, when King Jesus finally returns and brings the Kingdom of God. His disciples then didn't fully understand that he had to go to the cross, *before* returning with the crown, but they were right to praise and worship and anticipate the Messiah's great victory. Will you worship Him? In prayer, in song, in the way you live? The Pharisees didn't realise what was happening, in the same way lots of people now refuse to recognise Jesus as God's King - but don't be fooled - God's King will be praised! If human's didn't, the stones would cry out!! Many people in 2021 want to bury their heads in the sand like ostriches, but *reality* remains the same -> glory for God's King, peace for his people, and divine judgement on those that reject Jesus.
  
2. Imagine yourself in Jesus' position - do you think you'd have been more likely to AVOID Jerusalem because of what would happen there... or FIGHT your way to the throne with your passionate band of followers ready for victory and God's Kingdom to come? I guess some of us lean more naturally towards flight, and some of us lean towards fight... but notice how wonderfully Jesus resisted both temptations. Take a moment now to praise him now for being so righteous and faithful to his mission, willing to sacrifice himself and suffer the shame and pain of the cross, in order to win the crown and save his people!
  
3. Read Luke 9:23. Does Jesus only walk the path of triumph and victory and glory? How does seeing Jesus ride into *Jerusalem*, on a donkey, further our understanding of what it means to follow *this* King? In some ways this is a triumphant episode, as Jesus' followers praise him. But the context of what Jerusalem represents, of Jesus riding towards his crucifixion, of the deadly mutterings of the religious leaders, remind us that the way of Jesus is the way of self-sacrifice before glory, of the cross before the crown. As followers of Jesus, we are commanded to follow him - sacrificing our own pleasures and reputation, facing opposition, willing to suffer out of love for others, knowing that in the future there is a crown of glory waiting!!

**Pray:** Worship Jesus and thank God for our *resolute* King, and ask for strength to follow his example

**Listen/Sing:** Hosanna; Praise Rising - Paul Baloche (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cH5pVnP4ZGQ>)

**Meditate:** Luke 19:38