

CONVERSATION GUIDE

1. Take 5-10 minutes to discuss last week's **The End of the Beginning** sermon.
2. Think about both past Easters and this coming Easter. What have you done to prepare for past Easters? How are you preparing this year?

Each of the four books that comprise the Gospel tells of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, a fulfillment of the prophecy outlined in Zechariah 9:9. While Jesus' journey into Jerusalem certainly attracts the attention of many, it is important to note that people from all over Israel would have been traveling to Jerusalem at this time just as Jesus did in celebration of the Passover holiday.¹ In Luke's account, we learn that God sent Jesus, the Jewish religious leaders oppose Jesus, and that there will be a time of judgment.²

READ Luke 19:28-44

DISCUSS and REFLECT**Luke 19:28-34**

Following Jesus' instructions, two of the disciples travel to a nearby village to get a donkey for Jesus to ride as he enters Jerusalem. While the short trip would not have required a donkey and there are no other Biblical accounts of Jesus riding animals, Jesus asks for a donkey to carry him into Jerusalem to fulfill the prophecy outlined in Zechariah 9:9.³

1. In verse 30 Luke tells us "no one has ever ridden the donkey." Why is this significant?
2. Without asking for permission, the two disciples untie the donkey in order to bring it to Jesus. How do the owners of the donkey respond to the disciples' actions? Why do they respond in this way? What does their response reveal about their opinion of Jesus?

Luke 19:35-44

As was the ancient ritual for welcoming a king,⁴ the people lining the path to Jerusalem demonstrate their recognition of Jesus by spreading their cloaks along the path to prepare a way for Jesus. Praising God and proclaiming the coming of peace, the disciples echo their recognition through their shouts. However, these joyful exclamations provide a stark contrast to Jesus' tears.

1. How do the disciples react to the arrival of God's salvation? Why do they react in this way? What have they witnessed that gives them confidence in Jesus' identity?
2. Why do the Pharisees tell Jesus to "rebuke your disciples" (v. 39)? What prevents them from recognizing Jesus?
3. What causes Jesus to weep (v 41-44)?
4. Why will the stones cry out (v 40)? What does this reveal about Jesus?

APPLY

1. Even though Jesus stands in front of them, the Pharisees fail to recognize Him. What objects in our own lives obscure our understanding of Jesus and prevent us from seeing the salvation he brings?
2. The disciples prepare for Jesus by creating a pathway for his entry and proclaiming the work of the Lord. As Easter is quickly approaching, how can we prepare?

Proclaim God's coming and prepare for a celebration of Jesus' resurrection!

¹ John 11:55

² *The NIV Study Bible*. Zondervan, 1985.

³ Robert Deffinbaugh, "The Untriumphant Entry."

⁴ *The NIV Study Bible*. Zondervan, 1985.