

THE DIFFICULT SAYINGS OF JESUS

Week 2

Introduction- Luke 19:28-44

Read the Scripture passage above and then work through the introduction below to help guide your personal study

The sermon this weekend comes from another passage in the same Gospel (Luke) that we are studying in small groups this week. In Luke 12, Jesus says that his ministry will cause division. In Luke 19, you see this division played out among those living in Jerusalem. Some were overjoyed at his arrival and went out to meet him shouting praises. Others wanted to silence Jesus and his followers, seeing his arrival as a threat. The polarizing effect of Jesus is a theme throughout the Gospels, and so we will discuss how to navigate this reality that comes with faith in Christ.

Luke 19:28-44 is often titled “the Triumphal Entry.” Jesus had been to Jerusalem before, but this time he was coming to die. News about his “mighty works” had made him well-known, but not everyone received his arrival as good news. Jesus orchestrated the particulars of his arrival to fulfill significant prophecies in the Old Testament (Zechariah 9:9, cf. Genesis 49:11). By entering this way, Jesus was publicly declaring that he was the ultimate king of Israel, the long-awaited Messiah. Those who followed him rejoiced in this public declaration. The Pharisees did not recognize Jesus’ kingship, so they called for Jesus to rebuke them for praising him. He did not and he received the praise he is due.

Knowing that the people of Jerusalem would put him to death later in the week, Jesus wept for the city. He predicted their impending judgment, citing that they had not recognized the “time of your visitation.” This phrase in verse 44 signifies special times in the history of God’s people where God himself visited. Similar phrasing is used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament in passages like Exodus 3:14 and Isaiah 29:6. Sometimes, God’s coming brings peace, joy, and salvation, and other times it brings judgment. Luke himself used both forms of this theme (1:68, 7:16 for salvation, 10:8-15 for judgment).

Jesus, standing among them in that moment, was offering the unending peace that all of his followers experience. But when he returns again, his visit will bring judgment on those who have rejected the way of peace. As followers of Jesus we are to live well among those who reject Jesus and plead for them to change their mind. We desire, as he does, that everyone would receive his arrival as a joyous day!

Small Group Discussion Questions

Work through the questions before you come to small group and be ready to interact with the Scripture and questions below:

1. In the sermon this weekend, Pastor J.D. highlighted the reality that Jesus’ claims cause division. What was inspiring or meaningful that you took away from the sermon this weekend?

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Read Luke 19:28-44:

2. Describe the various reactions that people have when they encounter the real Jesus in Luke 19:28-44. What explanations can you give for the differences in reaction?

3. In verses 39-40, the Pharisees tell Jesus to rebuke his disciples and Jesus does not comply. Explain the significance of this interaction.

4. In Luke 12:49-53, the passage from this weekend's sermon, Jesus says he did not come to "bring peace, but division." However, Luke 19:38 and 42 refer to Jesus as one who brings peace. How are both of these things true?

5. Describe what it is that the people of Jerusalem missed in verses 42-44. Why are there such dire consequences for missing out on the significance of Jesus?

6. What can you learn from Jesus' demeanor, emotions, and interactions that you can emulate while "causing division" by being his follower?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-16

7. This passage describes the division that we, as disciples of Christ, cause among people by our presence and our witness to Jesus' message. Take a minute to share times when you've been the "aroma of Christ" in someone else's life. What advice do you have for other believers when they evoke a strong negative reaction among those who do not believe in Jesus?

8. Share some reasons why you are excited about Christ's return. Be specific and let your answers lead into a time of praise and prayer.