

LEADERTREKS **SERMON SERIES****MARK OF A DISCIPLE**

Disciples of Christ celebrate Jesus as King.

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 19:28–44

SERMON OVERVIEW

This is the story of Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem before his death. By examining the way Jesus arrived, students will discover more about the kind of king Jesus is—peaceful, worthy, and caring—and they'll get a glimpse of the upside-down nature of his Kingdom. Real-life examples of praiseworthy people will get students thinking about whether their values line up with Jesus' values. And students will end by exploring how they can grow in celebrating Jesus as King.

OPENING**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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ICE BREAKER QUESTION

- What's the most dramatic introduction or entrance you've ever seen (e.g., concert, bridal party flash mob, Olympic opening ceremony)?

MESSAGE

Use the following teaching points and suggested illustrations as a starting point to build your message.

READ LUKE 19:28–44**POINT 1: Jesus is a peaceful king**

Jesus entered Jerusalem to publicly announce that he was God's Messiah and King. But many of his followers had their own expectations about what kind of Kingdom he would bring. Jesus' entrance to Jerusalem showed exactly who he is. He blended elements of humility and peace with power and glory to reveal the upside-down nature of his Kingdom. The people expected their Messiah to overthrow the Romans and establish a literal Jewish Kingdom. But Jesus rode into town on a young donkey (not a war horse) to signal that he was coming in peace.¹

ILLUSTRATION: The musical *Hamilton*, based on actual historical events, tells us a little bit about the personality of George Washington, the first U.S. President. We know that he was a wise and powerful leader. He led his men into battle bravely and had many military successes. But after he served two terms as President, Washington knew that it was time to return home to his farm, to sit under "his own vine and fig tree"—a biblical metaphor for living in peace (Micah 4:4). The early Americans wanted him to continue to serve. They even wanted to crown him king! He knew that if he gave up power and stepped

down, it would set a precedent for other Presidents in the future, giving America's newly-formed democratic government a chance to flourish.²

George Washington knew the role he needed to play to help the United States become a successful, independent nation. In a similar way, Jesus knew that his role when he came to earth was as a peaceful king. He didn't fight a physical war; he fought and won the spiritual battle for our souls so we can have ultimate peace with God.

POINT 2: Jesus is a worthy king

Because he'd recently raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11), Jesus didn't need to announce himself; his followers were already there waiting to celebrate his power and glory. They shouted their praise, spreading cloaks on the road to acknowledge him as their Messiah and king. He rightly received and even expected their worship, saying that even the stones would praise him if the people didn't (vv. 39–40). By saying this, Jesus was pointing out the Pharisee's spiritual blindness. As experts in God's law, the Pharisees should have been the most prepared to recognize and praise Jesus. But instead, it was the least equipped people (sinners, Gentiles, uneducated, etc.) who eagerly acknowledged Jesus as king.³ Whether or not we are prepared to see him and respond, Jesus is a king worthy of all glory, praise, and worship.

POINT 3: Jesus is a caring king

Jesus wept for his people, knowing that they would misunderstand the nature of his Kingdom—that “greatness is found in humble service, not arrogant rule.”⁴ His tears and actions over the next week leading up to his death on the cross revealed the depth of his love for us. Jesus' eventual self-sacrifice on our behalf is the ultimate example of the kind of King he is.

ILLUSTRATION: Bill and Melinda Gates are two of the wealthiest people on the planet. Bill started Microsoft Corporation in the 1970s and slowly built it up to be one of the most successful companies in the world. He was a good and fair boss for thousands of people, and his success reflected that. Then, in 2010, Bill and Melinda decided to do something radical: they decided to start giving their money away. They realized their power, influence, and wealth offered a unique opportunity to leave the world better than they saw it. So they began to round up other ultra-wealthy people from around the world, and together they started The Giving Pledge. Instead of giving just a small percentage of their wealth away, members who take The Giving Pledge promise to give the majority of their wealth toward causes that address some of our world's most pressing problems.⁵

Just as those who take The Giving Pledge show they care about others through the way they spend their money, Jesus shows us he cares through his words and actions. The very fact he came to earth to live as a human proves he cares about his people. He lived a perfect life, healing people and reaching out to the lost, and then died a brutal death and rose again to defeat sin—all because he is a king who cares.

CLOSING REFLECTION

Use this prompt to wrap up your message and leave your students with a challenge to apply.

- Think of one specific way you can grow in celebrating Jesus. Take time each day this week to celebrate Jesus, your peaceful King, your worthy King, and your caring King.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Pick a few questions from below to discuss. Close with prayer.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some ways you might signal your personality and interests to the people around you?
- Who do you know who exhibits sacrificial care and leadership like Jesus?
- Based on Jesus' actions in this passage, what could you expect to be important in his Kingdom?
- Why do you think Jesus said the stones would cry out if the people did not?
- Which of the three aspects of Jesus' kingship from this lesson (peaceful, worthy, caring) do you find easiest to acknowledge and celebrate? Why?
- How do you show that you care about the world around you? How can you grow in this?
- How might God be calling you to sacrifice in order to show his love and care better?

PRAYER

Close by praying or invite someone to pray for your group.

Use this space to keep track of any prayer requests.

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¹ G.S. Cansdale, s.v. "ass, donkey," in *The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible*, ed. Merrill C. Tenney and Moises Silva, Revised, Full-Color Edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009), 1:400-402.

² *Hamilton: An American Musical*, music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, dir. Thomas Kail, CIBC Theatre, Chicago, IL, September 25, 2019.

³ Ray Stedman, "Message: When Stones Cry Out (Luke 19:37-40)," *Raystedman.Org*, October 21, 1973, accessed May 1, 2020, <https://www.raystedman.org/thematic-studies/new-covenant/when-stones-cry-out>.

⁴ David L. Turner, "Matthew 21:1-11," in *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*, ed. Philip W. Comfort, (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2005), 11:265-267.

⁵ "About - The Giving Pledge," *Giving Pledge*, accessed May 1, 2020, <https://givingpledge.org/About.aspx>.