



## Holy Week Reflections

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*Luke 19:19-44; Zechariah 9:9-17; Psalm 118:25-29*

### OPEN

Do you have any Holy Week traditions that are meaningful as you prepare for Easter (Resurrection Sunday)?

Do you have any Easter traditions?

How has Easter shaped you over the years?

### REFLECTION ON SCRIPTURE

**Read Luke 19:19-44**

Identify the different people or groups of people in this story. How is each important to this story?

With whom do you most identify in this story? Why?

What do you think the crowd was thinking and expecting of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem?

Note: Read Zech 9:9-17 and Psalm 118:25-29. In the context of our Luke passage, the people of Israel had been under foreign rule for hundreds of years (now under Rome and Caesar in the time of Jesus). The people were longing for the day when God would raise up a king (Messiah) who would once for all reestablish the nation of Israel and God's rule in the land. In the heat of political frenzy, Jesus rides into town on a donkey (a royal/kingly sign) that the people did not miss. Their shouts of proclamation were for the one they had been waiting for—what the prophets had predicted.

Do you think Jesus disappointed the crowd that day? Why or why not?

## **REFLECTING ON YOUR OWN JOURNEY**

There is no doubt that Jesus fulfilled all that the prophets said...yet he was crucified for it. Confusing? How do you see Jesus fulfilling God's promise in Zechariah (or other Old Testament predictions)? How was Jesus different than what the people had envisioned in the coming King/Messiah?

The crowd would quickly change its tune a few days later—from shouts of praise comes the screams...CRUCIFY HIM! Think about your own journey of faith:

- Have you ever been disappointed with God or Jesus?
- Have you experienced the same feelings as the crowd—one minute loving Jesus and the other struggling to stay with him (or even wanting to follow him)? Explain?
- How would you describe the "cry of your heart" in this season of life with God? Is it full of praise? Is there confusion or questions? Are there doubts or disappointment? Other?

Close your group in prayer being sensitive to the things shared in the group. We do not always know or understand all that God is doing, but we can trust he is who he says he is and his grace and love are pursuing us.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

- Reflect this week on your own journey of faith and your commitment to Jesus as both Savior and LORD of all your life. What do you sense the Spirit of God saying to you.
- Create space this week to sit quietly with God. Think on his life, death, and resurrection for you and this world he loves. Think on the grace and mercy he has brought into your life.
- Spend time in prayer simply sharing with God anything that is on your heart this Holy Week—whether confession, praise, questions, needs/longings, seeking renewal, or other.