First Baptist Friendswood Students

Daily Discipleship — November 15-20

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

CHRIST CONNECTION

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, He fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah and proclaimed He was the One God had promised to send. The people praised Jesus, but they praised Him for the wrong reasons.

KINDNESS OF A KING — LUKE 19

JESUS IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP — LUKE 19:28-40

28 And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 When he drew near to
Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the
village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it
and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'"
32 So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. 33 And as they were untying the
colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 And they said, "The Lord has need of it." 35
And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 36 And as he rode
along, they spread their cloaks on the road. 37 As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount
of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the
mighty works that they had seen, 38 saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in
heaven and glory in the highest!" 39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke
your disciples." 40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

JESUS LONGS FOR US TO KNOW HIM — LUKE 19:41-44

41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known
on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will
come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on
every side 44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one
stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

THEOLOGY CONNECTION — WORSHIP

While many reduce worship to an event or the singing of worship songs, worship is first and foremost something of the heart and extends to all areas of life. The aim and focus of worship are God, giving Him the praise and adoration that He deserves. Worship should be carried out not only at a personal level within a Christian's life but also in joining with other Christians in the corporate act of worship and stewarding our gifts for the glory of God. Corporate worship serves to edify and strengthen other Christians, but it also serves as a witness to non-believers of the greatness of God.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

JESUS IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP — LUKE 19:28-40

• What is worship, and why is it an important part of our lives?

• What made Jesus worthy of the people's praise? Of our praise?

• Jesus said if those praising Him fell silent, "the stones would cry out" (v. 40). What was He trying to get the Pharisees to understand?

JESUS LONGS FOR US TO KNOW HIM — LUKE 19:41-44

• What can we learn about Jesus from His weeping over Jerusalem? Dig deep: What do you see?

• Why couldn't the Pharisees see who Jesus was? How can we avoid making the same mistake?

• What does it take for people to see Jesus?

How can you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and His mission, even when doing so isn't easy?

LIFE CONNECTION

Have you ever thought about what you would do if you knew you only had a little bit of time left to live? We often feel a sense of urgency when we know an end is coming, changing the way we function and think. What would be different? What would stay the same? Would you put your phone down and quit doomscrolling? Who would you spend time with? What conversations would you need to have? The decisions you'd make would say a lot about who you are and what's most important to you. Some of us might spend time with our family and our friends. We might ditch school and work to take a trip somewhere we've always wanted to see. We might eat all of our favorite foods and watch all of our favorite movies. Some of us might have important conversations with people we love, expressing forgiveness or offering an apology. Here's the truth: Our lives here are brief in light of eternity, and living like eternity is close will help us live wisely.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH — ZECHARIAH 9:9

When we think about military war heroes or even championship teams, they usually return home to a hero's welcome. A parade greets them at the edge of town to usher them back to a ceremony full of cheering crowds and grateful spectators. Speeches are given, confetti is thrown, flags are waved, and a chorus of praise and adoration is shouted. During biblical times, armies would parade on great war horses as they entered a conquered city. But as we read in this week's main passage, our conquering King paraded into Jerusalem on a humble donkey. Zechariah prophesied about this exact moment hundreds of years before it ever happened.

Why a donkey and not a horse? In the ancient Middle Eastern world, kings rode to war on horses, but they rode on donkeys if they came in peace. For example, Solomon rode on King David's donkey to be anointed as king, following his father's death (1 Kings 1:33-40). Jesus entering Jerusalem was a public declaration that He was the long-awaited King and Messiah. He was the promised One that Israel had been looking for. But what they missed, what they didn't understand, is that Jesus came not as a King of war but as the King of peace. By riding the prophesied donkey, He declared Himself as our peaceful King.

The initial crowd waving palm branches missed that Jesus came to conquer their sin, not Rome. He came to bring reconciliation, not war. He came to call them to salvation that He was about to provide on a cross at Calvary. By His death and resurrection, Jesus was indeed a conquering King as He defeated death and sin, but what the Jews missed was that Rome was not the enemy that needed to be conquered; their sin was. And sin is our great enemy too. Praise God for sending His Son to conquer what we never could!

• How has Jesus brought peace to your life?

• How have your expectations of Jesus changed as you've grown to know Him?

PRAY

Jesus, You are my peaceful King. Thank You for my salvation and for defeating death. Continue to teach me about who You are as I grow in my faith and knowledge of You.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH — ISAIAH 55:8-9

Have you ever been given instructions that didn't make sense? When Jesus told two disciples to go get a colt for Him to ride into Jerusalem, they probably scratched their heads, checking and rechecking with each other what exactly those instructions were. Because they were odd instructions: "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" While it may sound a little like the crime of stealing a car, this colt (or donkey) was meant for just this moment. We don't know all the details that were left out, but the disciples successfully secured the donkey for Jesus's triumphal entry to Jerusalem.

In today's passage, the Lord reminds us that He sees the big picture. While we may not have the details, He has all of them. Our limited minds cannot comprehend all that God does, but we can trust that He works all things for our good and His glory (Rom. 8:28). So how do we do this? How do we trust His guidance even when we don't understand His instructions or His instructions feel difficult? First, we surrender to His lordship. We have faith in Him, even when it's hard. Secondly, we get into His Word. God will never tell us to do something that contradicts His Word. And thirdly, we pray. God wants an intimate, daily relationship with us. He wants to reveal Himself and His ways to us.

When God gives us instructions that we don't understand, we can trust His wisdom. We trust in His unfailing knowledge and in His power and strength. And when God gives us instructions that seem really hard? We obey. We lean into His strength and power. Those disciples probably looked at each other and said, "We're supposed to do what?" Jesus's instructions may not have made sense in the moment, but they obeyed because they trusted their Messiah.

• How do God's instructions feel hard, unpopular, or even weird according to the world?

• How do we align our thoughts closer to God's?

PRAY

Lord, You are so much greater than my brain understands. Make my thoughts more like Yours. Teach me to trust Your instructions.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH — PSALM 24:7-10

What's your walk-up song? If you play baseball or softball, you may already have one. If you don't, what would you choose? Walk-up songs started in professional baseball in the 1970s and are now a staple in almost every league of baseball and softball. They announce a player and get the crowd energized. Some players use them to intimidate their opponents. Some use them to get focused on the task ahead. In many ways, today's psalm is a bit like a walk-up song.

David's psalm is believed to be written about the Ark of the Covenant's return to Jerusalem from battle (2 Sam. 6; 1 Chron. 13). The song, or hymn, enthusiastically announced the return of the King. The lyrics tell the sanctuary to "open up" for the King's arrival. And who is this King? Yahweh, the King of glory who is a mighty warrior, entering the sanctuary!

In this week's main session, Jesus entered Jerusalem on His way to the cross. This hymn could have been Jesus's walk-up song as He entered the city. Riding on a donkey, fulfilling prophecy, being worshiped by His disciples—the energy was definitely there. While Jesus wasn't about to go to bat, He was about to enter the final days of His ministry on earth. The spiritual battle that was about to take place would be the ultimate fight over sin and death—and Jesus would come out on top. King Jesus, the mighty yet humble warrior King, was entering the sanctuary. He battled for us at the cross, taking on all of our sin, and when He died and resurrected three days later, death was defeated.

• How does this psalm shape how you read Luke 19:28-44?

• What emotions does the description of God as a mighty warrior stir up in you? How does knowing Jesus battled and defeated death for you impact how you understand your salvation?

PRAY

Jesus, You are a mighty yet humble warrior. Thank You for defeating sin and death so that I can be with You forever.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH — 2 PETER 3:9

We read this week, after Jesus's triumphal entry, about a moment where Jesus wept for Jerusalem. He grieved for the fate of Jerusalem and the people of Israel. He knew that the destruction of Jerusalem was near (AD 70). Pain. Ruin. War. It was all coming to these people because they rejected the Messiah who walked among them. Israel failed to submit to God's rule, and the consequences—God's judgment—were devastating. And in His goodness and compassion with the knowledge of what was to come, Jesus wept for them.

God's heart for us is freedom and salvation, not judgment. He longs for us to turn to Him. We see in today's passage that Jesus's compassion and love for us is what delays His return. He's coming back as He said, but He wants everyone to have the chance to repent and turn to Him. He loves us so much that He came to earth, died, and resurrected so that no one would perish (John 3:16). Our culture often paints God as a cold and unreasonable judge who looks for any opportunity to punish sinners. And while God is the God of justice, He is also the God of compassion, love, peace, goodness, kindness, and so much more. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). He took our place and the punishment that we deserved on Himself. That's a love far bigger and better than anything we can comprehend.

We too should have compassion and love for the lost. Our hearts should break for those who don't know Jesus, who aren't in a saving relationship with Him, because if they reject Him, they will also perish. And we show love to the lost by sharing His gospel with them. How can you do this today?

• Are you surprised by Jesus's emotion for Jerusalem? Why or why not?

• Who do you need to share the gospel with? How is sharing the gospel an act of love?

PRAY

Jesus, I am so grateful for the love You've shown me. Give me courage and boldness to love the lost enough to share Your gospel with them.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH — ISAIAH 55:1-7

Status, relationships, accomplishments, wealth—these are just some of the things the world tells us will bring us joy, contentment, inner peace, and purpose. But do they really? They may provide temporary satisfaction, but they will never satisfy us permanently. The only true peace—satisfaction—is found in Jesus.

In today's passage in Isaiah, God called out to the thirsty and hungry who have no money and offered to quench their thirst and provide "rich food" without cost to them. This Scripture is a picture of Jesus's invitation to us. He offers water, a symbol of life; wine, a metaphor for joy and celebration; and milk, representing nourishment—all the things our souls truly desire. Jesus extended an invitation for us to come and feast. We will only ever find true peace, complete satisfaction, lasting contentment, and genuine purpose in Him.

Verses 6-7 remind us that this invitation will not last forever. We do not have all the time in the world, and if you've experienced the death of someone you love, you know the truth of this. We must turn to Jesus today! In our main lesson for the week, Jesus grieved for Jerusalem and the people of Israel. They didn't know it, but they were about to run out of time. God's judgment, which destroyed the city, the temple, and so many people, was drawing near. Let us not make the same mistake by rejecting Jesus's invitation. He invites us to seek Him, and in Him alone will we find what our souls thirst and hunger for!

• What have you tried to find peace and contentment in other than Jesus? How did that work for you?

• How does the warning in verses 6-7 encourage you to share the gospel with the lost?

PRAY

Jesus, I will only find what I am looking for in You. Thank You for the invitation to come and feast with You.