

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #73

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 19:29-44

Sermon Date: Feb 18, 2007

It's Downhill From Here ...

It seems so long ago (way back in Luke 9:51) that Jesus set out resolutely for Jerusalem, where his kingdom would finally be ushered in just as the scriptures had foretold. Luke then writes ten chapters which detail the happenings en route to Jerusalem. In this week's passage, Jesus has now climbed the thousands of feet up into the mountains which nestle the holy city. Finally, the road before him crests over the historic Mount of Olives, revealing at last a panoramic view of the city of Jerusalem just below.

Take note of the ground where this triumphal event takes place. For it will be on this same Mountain where Jesus will soon pray late into the night before his arrest. Then some weeks later his disciples will watch him ascend bodily up into heaven – from this same Mount of Olives. But first, our King of Kings must begin his descent, taking your sins and mine upon his shoulders, becoming the sacrificial Lamb who would die in our place to pay the penalty for our sins, and then conquering death itself in a holy surprise ending. This entry scene is full of joy, full of tears, and full of symbolism and prophetic echoes. Lord, open our eyes to see, our minds to understand, our hearts to feel, ... open for us the way toward eternal life.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'"</p> <p>³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"</p> <p>³⁴ They replied, "The Lord needs it."</p> <p>³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.</p> <p>³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:</p> <p>³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"</p> <p>³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"</p> <p>⁴⁰ "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."</p> <p>⁴¹ As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴² and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."</p>	

2. The triumphal entry is also described in the other three gospels (in Mt 21:1-11, Mk 11:1-11, and Jn 12:12-19). Read these other accounts and note below what additional insights you gain about this event.

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Look Closer:

5. Notice all the symbolism, foreshadowing, and fulfilled prophecy?
 - a. What was the symbolic meaning of the colt in Luke 19 never having been ridden?
 - b. What were the practical implications of this (ever seen someone try to ride an 'unbroken' animal?), and what does that imply about Jesus relative to animals?
 - c. How was this scene a fulfillment of prophecy? (See Zec 9:9, Mt 21:4-5, Jn 12:14-16) Who was aware of this prophetic alignment while it was happening?
6. What was the symbolism of people spreading their cloaks on the road ahead of Jesus? (consider 2 Kings 9:12b-13)
7. Some unexpected things occur on the way down the hill. Consider and try to explain why each of the following occur:
 - a. The crowds, who so often do not understand or accept Jesus' teaching and prophecies, are suddenly joyful and triumphant. Why?
 - b. Christ, who is ushering in the greatest kingdom ever, stops and weeps as he crests the mountaintop and sees Jerusalem, the holiest of holy cities. Why?
 - c. Jerusalem, which at that time was only about 40 years away from its sure destruction (which Christ himself predicts once again in Luke 19:43-44), does not recognize what would bring them peace instead (v.42). Why not?
8. The Triumphal entry seems to have occurred on Monday of Passion week (based on Jn 12:1, 12). In Jewish tradition, this day was known as "Lamb Selection Day" of the Passover week – the day when lambs without defect would be selected to be sacrificed on that Friday. How does the triumphal entry occurring on this particular day foreshadow Jesus' role in history? (Consider John 1:29 and 1 Cor 5:7)
9. Psalms 113-118 are known as the "Hallel" Psalms, which were sung at all major Israelite festivals, and thus they would have been very familiar to the Jews. Thus the songs of praise in Luke 19:38 quoted quite naturally the familiar text of Ps 118:26. Explore this connection a little further – read the rest of Psalm 118 and note below any other examples you see there which foreshadow Jesus in general, and more specifically, which foreshadow his triumphal entry.

10. Four days after his triumphal entry, Jesus celebrated the Passover meal in the upper room with his disciples. The Hallel would be included in that tradition, with Psalms 113-114 sung at the beginning of the meal and Psalms 115-118 at the end. (In fact, Mt 26:30 and Mk 14:26 confirm that they did in fact sing – which by the way is the only recorded instance in the Bible of Jesus singing). Read Ps 118 one more time – and reflect back on the events of the triumphal entry and the rest of the Passion week it led into.

a. What do you think it would have been like for Jesus to hear Psalm 118:26 during his triumphal descent into Jerusalem on Monday and then to sing the Hallel Psalms less than 24 hours before his death?

11. What is the main point of this passage? How can you apply this in your life?

12. In Jesus' day, many people missed seeing who he was and why he came. How about you? How can you better recognize Jesus role as Lord and Savior in your life? What would it look like for you to welcome Jesus into your life more completely – with you whole mind, soul, strength, and heart?