

Participant's Guide 4

The Triumphal Entry

I. Celebrating Christ as the Bright and Morning Star

- II. **Revelation 22:16** "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David and the bright and morning star." Yes Jesus is the source of light and hope.

III. Read this week's story: Matthew 21: 1-11; Mark 11: 1-10; Luke 19: 29-44; John 12: 12-19 DA 63

IV. For Meditation:

- a. Luke 19: 41-44: Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴² saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴ and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."
- b. The three times Jesus wept: Over His friend Lazarus death and the sorrow of family; Over the city of Jerusalem and its tragic future; Over the world of sin and His imminent sacrifice in Gethsemane.
- c. When Jesus approached Jerusalem during the triumphal entry, people in the city asked "who is this." Here is a section in Desire of ages worth reflecting on: As they question, "Who is this?" the disciples, filled with the spirit of inspiration, answer this question. In eloquent strains they repeat the prophecies concerning Christ: Adam will tell you, It is the seed of the woman that shall bruise the serpent's head. Ask Abraham, he will tell you, It is "Melchizedek King of Salem," King of Peace. Genesis 14:18. Jacob will tell you, He is Shiloh of the tribe of Judah. Isaiah will tell you, "Immanuel," "Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 7:14; 9:6. Jeremiah will tell you, The Branch of David, "the Lord our Righteousness." Jeremiah 23:6. Daniel will tell you, He is the Messiah. [579] Hosea will tell you, He is "the Lord God of hosts; the Lord is His memorial." Hosea 12:5. John the Baptist will tell you, He is "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. The great Jehovah has proclaimed from His throne, "This is My beloved Son." Matthew 3:17. We, His disciples, declare, This is Jesus, the Messiah, the Prince of life, the Redeemer of the world. And the prince of the powers of darkness acknowledges Him, saying, "I know Thee who Thou art, the Holy One of God." Mark 1:24.
- d. Who do you say Jesus is when asked? Who is Jesus to you?

V. Prayer this week:

1. Five People who need your prayer support;
2. Your Church in its witness for Christ;
3. Your Family it will be close and united.
4. The leaders of your church, conference, city and province.
5. That you will have the courage to leave your comfort zone to fulfill a calling from God.

Background

Sunday—The triumphal entry: (Jesus began the day in Bethany and ended in Bethany).

Have you ever experienced delight and disappointment within a few hours of the same day. The followers of Jesus were about to go through that clash of emotions. Jesus seemed to finally align with the people's hopes to declare Himself King. As He rode on a donkey toward Jerusalem with an ever increasing multitude of cheering people, this surely was the launching of their moment of national greatness, when Jesus would declare Himself King. But just minute—what was this-- their king is weeping as He looks over Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives? Shouldn't He be cheering? His words about Jerusalem were words of disappointment not jubilation! In that dramatic moment the realities about the city He loved appeared before Him. He foresaw Jerusalem's rejection of Him and its later demise by Roman powers—it pained Jesus heart. He wept.

Jesus knew He must now make public what had been at times kept secret—who He truly was. If ever the people would make sense out of the next few days they needed to know who He was and the nature of His mission. They must know He was the prophesied Messiah and long-awaited Saviour. However they must realize the kingdom He is to establish is not to rule governments and territories but the hearts of people--a spiritual kingdom that now is awaiting the fullness of the Kingdom later. His second return would be the true triumphal entry. The days ahead for the disciples would appear to be their greatest defeat and disappointment-- their hoped-for king dying. Little did they realize it then but their disappointment would give way to their greatest triumph. Christ would rise from the dead, ascend to heaven and as the enthroned King, guide their life and mission. It would be the reason for their greatest joy. Disappointments are often the preludes of breakthroughs to new hopes and encouragements.

Life with Jesus always has hope beyond the moment. Much of our world in 2020 has come to a halt. Disappointment and confusion are felt globally. In the upper room at the last supper Jesus said to His disciples, "Therefore you now have sorrow, but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you." Jesus is a master pilot who guides His people through the storms of life to a safe harbor. We need Him to guide us through another storm. With Jesus there are always better days ahead!