



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK 6

On Palm Sunday, Pastor Jacob returned to offer words of hope and challenge after a hard week here in the Nashville area. The shooting of six people (including three nine-year-olds) at a small Christian school in the Green Hills area of Nashville has created a moment of deep grief and resolve in our community. What the current situation unfortunately highlights is our collective misdirected hope. The human kings and rulers that rule the world will always fall short of the true King. On Palm Sunday, Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem as King—a King who rode on a donkey and taught of a world with no violence. He proclaimed a Kingdom that is right at hand—one which will set all things right. In this Holy Week we join our voices with the age old cry, “Come, Lord Jesus.” “Save us!”

Peace of Christ,  
Dr. Mark Youngman  
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: LUKE 19.28-31

<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup> “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. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

- Jesus was well aware of the significance of what we call Palm Sunday. Preparations had been made and in this passage, Jesus was letting his disciples in on a few details. Perhaps the disciples thought about the words of the prophet Zechariah as they walked to secure the colt. *See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.* (Zec. 9.9) If so, they would have begun to see the significance of what they were doing. They were part of the preparations for the entry of King Jesus into Jerusalem. **Are there ways in which you have been called upon to announce that Jesus is King?**

- *Jesus, I'm listening for your instructions that will lead to your Kingdom coming to earth. Use me King Jesus! Amen.*

## TUESDAY: LUKE 19.32-40

*Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"*

<sup>34</sup> *They replied, "The Lord needs it."*

<sup>35</sup> *They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.*

<sup>37</sup> *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:*

<sup>38</sup> *"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"*

*"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

<sup>39</sup> *Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"*

<sup>40</sup> *"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."*

- The crowd recognized Jesus not because of his impressive entourage but because of his miracles. The things that Jesus had done went before him, and they caused the crowd to shout words from Psalm 118. "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" Most kings make an appearance that is really all about themselves, but Jesus came for the people and so the people rejoiced. **Describe a time when you experienced a spontaneous moment of praise to God.**
- *Lord, You sent Jesus to show a new Way to reign. Forgive me for my pursuit of other kings. Amen.*

## WEDNESDAY: LUKE 19.41-44

<sup>41</sup> *As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> 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. <sup>44</sup> 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."*

- Jesus wept on Palm Sunday. This fact is juxtaposed against a backdrop of a celebratory parade. Once again, Jesus had his eyes fixed upon the bigger picture. He could see the coming destruction of the city of Jerusalem that could have been avoided if they had recognized who Jesus truly was. **How does knowing Jesus lead you to pursue peace? Are there specific situations in which you are inviting the King of Peace to bring salvation?**
- *God, I so long for the peace that Jesus offers. My heart yearns for a time when children will not be dashed to the ground. Make it so, God. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

## THURSDAY: 1 SAMUEL 8.5-9

*now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."*

<sup>6</sup> *But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. <sup>7</sup> And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. <sup>8</sup> As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. <sup>9</sup> Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights."*

- Generations before Jesus walked the earth, God's people asked God for a king to rule over them. They saw that other nations had kings, and they felt they would be better served by one themselves. God knew that the request was a rejection of God as their king. It wasn't the first time they had collectively longed for something less than God, and we've been carrying on that tradition quite nicely ourselves. **What would it look like to know that God is your true King while still participating in the civic system of order?**
- *God, I thank you for men and women who do their best to lead and serve in politics and leadership. Remind me that you are ultimately my King and the One who leads me. Amen.*

## FRIDAY: 1 THESSALONIANS 4.13-18

*Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.<sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.<sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.<sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.<sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

- Paul reminded followers of Jesus that they had reason for hope in the middle of intense grief. The death and resurrection of Jesus and his promised return is our reason for hope. The crowds on Palm Sunday were putting their hope in Jesus as the one who would save them. They were right, but they had no idea that his way of salvation would lead him to the cross. They had no idea that he would defeat death by rising again. And they had no idea that they could be alive with the Lord forever. What a gift we have of knowing salvation. **Do you find encouragement in Paul's words in Thessalonians 4? How do you picture the return of Christ described here?**
- *Lord, thank you for the words of the Bible that encourage me to live as one who has been saved through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## SATURDAY: PSALM 93.1-4

*The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty;  
the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength;  
indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.*

<sup>2</sup>*Your throne was established long ago;  
you are from all eternity.*

<sup>3</sup>*The seas have lifted up, Lord,  
the seas have lifted up their voice;  
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.*

<sup>4</sup>*Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea—  
the Lord on high is mighty.*

- We understandably grow tired of politics-gone-wrong and the negativity that seems to be inherent in it. Instead of spending time and energy wrestling for power and control, we would do well to share in this vision of God's reign described in Psalm 93. May it serve as a prayerful reminder today of the reign of God. **When the evils of this world seem to drown out anything**

**good, read verses 3 and 4 and remember that the Lord on high is mightier than all the noise and clamoring, death and destruction.** The Lord is robed in majesty. He reigns!

- *Lord, Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity. You are my King! Amen.*

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Without added commentary, identify 10 key headlines from the last week. List them below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

- Which ones clearly point to a reliance on a human king?
- Do any of them point to the need for God to reign as King?
- What would have to change in this world in order for the headlines to change?

Read Psalm 93.1-4 (Saturday's text) aloud, and then pray for the reign of Jesus in our world.