

Daily Bible Study Guide for March 30 – April 4



“The Triumphal Entry” of Jesus into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) is considered by many to be the high water mark in Jesus’ ministry prior to His betrayal, crucifixion, and resurrection.

It certainly must have been quite a spectacle to see the Son of God enter the great city of Jerusalem and being enthusiastically received by large crowds of worshipers.

But, why were the people so excited? What did they see in Jesus that created such an enthusiastic uproar?

The events that led to the Triumphal Entry and the shouts from the crowds during the event offer significant clues that help us more fully understand not only why the people were so eager to welcome Jesus, but also why in a matter of hours the same crowd wanted Him dead!

The Triumphal Entry certainly was a very important event – but perhaps not for the reasons most people understand.

Monday, March 30

Read: Matthew 20:1-16

1. This parable is about the grace and generosity of God. What is the main point Jesus wanted to make about God’s grace and generosity?

2. Why do you think Jesus said what He did in verse 8?

3. Who is the landowner and what point did Jesus want to make about him?

4. Who are the laborers and what point did Jesus want to make about them?

5. Discussion/Application: Where do you see yourself in this parable? Is it easy for you to grumble or complain when someone who has served for a shorter time or without as much investment as you receives equal or greater recognition that you?

Tuesday, March 31

Read: Matthew 20:17-28

1. Jesus made it very clear in verses 17 – 19 what would be happening to Him in the next few days. This account (and the parallel one in Mark 10:32-34) records no response from His men. What would you have said to Jesus if He said these words to you?

2. What, according to verses 20 – 21 (and Mark 10:35-37) was on the minds of the disciples and others instead of Jesus' parable and prediction?

3. What did Jesus have to say about the peoples' distraction? (Matthew 20:22-23; Mark 10:38 – 40)

4. Why did the other disciples react negatively to what was going on, and how did Jesus bring things back into perspective? (Matthew 20:24 – 28; Mark 10:41-45)

5. Discussion/Application: On which side of this event do you think you would have been if you were a part of the 12 – aggressively looking for glory or being angry that you didn't get first shot at glory?

Wednesday, April 1

Read: Matthew 20:29 - 34

1. By what names did these blind men call Jesus?

2. What title is given to Jesus in Matthew 1:1, and what is the significance of that title?

3. Besides calling Him the Son of David, what did each person say to Jesus in the following verses? (Matthew 9:27; 15:22; 20:30)

4. What were people wondering about Jesus in Matthew 12:22-24?

5. Discussion/Application: Why did Jesus heal the blind men in Matthew 20:34?

Thursday, April 2

Read: Matthew 21:1-11

1. What was Jesus' purpose for coming to Jerusalem?

2. What were the crowds looking for as Jesus arrived?

3. What is the significant about the way Jesus presented Himself to the crowds? (v. 5)

4. "Hosanna" (v. 19) means "salvation is now." To what degree do you think the people who greeted Jesus knew about the kind of salvation He would offer and the way it would be offered?

5. Discussion/Application: What expectations or assumptions about Jesus did you have before you learned what He and His ministry are *really* about?

Friday, April 3

Read: Matthew 21:12-17

1. In what way were those who were buying and selling in the temple "robbers"?

2. How do you think the blind people found Jesus? How do you think the lame people reached Jesus?

3. What is important about the details mentioned in verse 15?

4. Why would spiritual leaders be indignant when people are excited about spiritual things? In what way might the same thing be happening today?

5. Discussion/Application: How open is the Church at large to the idea of young children being worship leaders?

Saturday, April 4

Read: Matthew 27:15-26

1. "Barabbas" (v. 16) literally means "Son of the Father." For what crime was Barabbas being tried? (see Mark 15:7)

2. For what crime was Jesus being tried? Why would His "crime" be a threat to the governing officials?

3. What did the common people try to do to Jesus at least once? (John 6:15)

4. A week earlier the crowds welcomed Jesus, but now they are rejecting Him. What kind of kingdom were the people looking for and what kind of kingdom did Jesus offer?

5. Discussion/Application: What do people do to Jesus today if/when they discover that He is not our ticket to peace and prosperity in this life?
