SERVANT TO KING

CORE PASSAGE: LUKE 19:28-40

CONTEXT

Since Luke 9:51, the Gospel writer had been preparing his readers for Jesus's entry into Jerusalem. In Luke 19, the time had come. Jesus went to Jerusalem unafraid, knowing what would happen to Him. This was the moment for which He came into this world—to go to the cross to redeem His people from their sins. Everything was prepared, even down to the servants who would provide the donkey for His entry and the upper room for His last supper. Jesus was fully in control.

KEY CONCEPT

Jesus is the humble King as prophesied, bringing peace and glory to God.

As you examine Luke 19:28-40:

- Recognize that Jesus rode into town on a colt, fulfilling prophecy.
- Praise Jesus, the humble King, who is worthy of all praise from all of creation.

© 2026 Lifeway Christian Resources



TIMELINE

- Jesus Heals a Blind Man (John 9:1-41)
- Jesus Encounters Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)
- Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead (John 11:1-44)
- **SESSION STUDY: Jesus's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-40)**
- Jesus Foretells the Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple (Luke 21:5-36)
- Jesus Institutes the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:7-38)

Daily Readings

- ☐ **Day 1:** John 12:12-50
- ☐ **Day 2:** Luke 19:28–21:4
- ☐ **Day 3:** Matthew 21:1–22:46
- ☐ **Day 4:** Matthew 23:1-39
- ☐ **Day 5:** Mark 11:1–12:44
- ☐ **Day 6:** Psalm 150

Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

© 2026 Lifeway Christian Resources

PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 19:28-35

JESUS RODE INTO TOWN ON A DONKEY, REVEALING HIS HUMILITY.

Underline Jesus's instructions to His disciples, and circle their obedience.

28 When he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. **29** As he approached Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples **30** and said, "Go into the village ahead of you. As you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. **31** If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say this: 'The Lord needs it.'" **32** So those who were sent left and found it just as he had told them. **33** As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" **34** "The Lord needs it," they said. **35** Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their clothes on the colt, they helped Jesus get on it.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus was prophesied to come as the Messiah on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9), revealing His humility and His sovereignty as Lord.

© 2026 Lifeway Christian Resources

Key Concept: Jesus is the humble King as prophesied, bringing peace and glory to God.

Even though the Jews were already seeking information about Jesus's whereabouts to kill Him, Jesus rode into Jerusalem like He owned the place.[1] Notice how in control He was over everything. Preparations were made in advance. People were waiting. A colt was ready. His disciples were told where to go, what to say, and to whom to say it. The Lord was running this show down to the smallest detail. Yet there is no hint of pride in anything the Lord did. Instead, His humility shines in the text.

How does seeing Jesus in full control even as He walked toward suffering and death strengthen your trust in His control over your own life?

Since Luke 9:51, Jesus has set His face toward Jerusalem. Now, finally, Jesus was on the outskirts of the city. The time had come. His hour—the hour when He would redeem His own—was near. The King was about to enter His city. As He did, He knew He was walking right into the grip of His enemies. Yet He did not enter on a war horse with sword drawn. He entered humbly, fulfilling ancient prophecy.

Though Luke did not quote this reference like Matthew and John did, Zechariah had prophesied: "Look, your King is coming to you; he is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9). It was no accident that Jesus chose a donkey to finish His journey into Jerusalem, the city of peace. He came as the Prince of Peace, not a warrior ready to slay but the Savior ready to be slain to make peace between God and man on the cross (Colossians 1:20).

The glory of God came down to this world in Jesus, His Son. And waging war on the sin that ruined His creation, Jesus first fought not by trampling underfoot those who rebelled but by being trampled to death by His enemies—by us all—to save the rebels who would turn to Him.

As followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, what weapons do we have for our fight against sin and our gospel mission in the world?

VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

"Our Redeemer is the sovereign Lord and King of all the universe. He did not come to Jerusalem to be made a king. He came into Jerusalem triumphantly as the King. He was going, by way of the cross, to receive his kingdom."[2]

–Don Fortner (1950–2020)

© 2026 Lifeway Christian Resources

PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 19:36-40

JESUS IS KING AND WAS WORSHIPED AS THE MESSIAH.

Circle the way the crowd praised God during Jesus's triumphal entry.

36 As he was going along, they were spreading their clothes on the road. **37** Now he came near the path down the Mount of Olives, and the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen: **38** Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven! **39** Some of the Pharisees from the crowd told him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." **40** He answered, "I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out."

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

CHRIST AS KING: God has always been King over His creation, whether in heaven or on earth. Yet some of His creatures in both realms have rebelled against Him, leaving destruction in their wake. To restore His broken world, God promised a King who would deliver His people and restore all of creation. The promise of a coming King finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ and looks forward to its perfection when Jesus returns for His bride, the church.

© 2026 Lifeway Christian Resources

Key Concept: Jesus is the humble King as prophesied, bringing peace and glory to God.

As Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem in His triumphal entry, He was greeted by a whole crowd of disciples who both understood and misunderstood the meaning of this event. Here was the King who would bring peace to the city, making it an abiding reality. No doubt nationalistic hopes began to soar: The Messiah had come, and He would establish His rule on the earth—God would finally get His glory.

Although the crowd rightly praised Jesus as God's promised King, they did not fully understand the true meaning of His entrance. How could they? Who would imagine victory and peace would come through death? Who could comprehend that the cross would lead to the crown?

What are some ways you have seen God and His gospel defy worldly wisdom?

Jesus had accomplished a lot in His public ministry so far. The disciples had seen the miracles with their own eyes. They knew the prophecies. They recognized Jesus for who He was. So they praised Him on His humble and triumphant ride into Jerusalem. They gave glory to God for His gracious provision of the promised Savior and King.

But not all who saw Jesus praised Him. The Pharisees were disgusted by what they saw and heard. They too grasped the significance of Jesus's riding in on a donkey, but they didn't believe it was right. How could a mere man receive the praises due only to God? So they commanded Jesus to rebuke His worshiping disciples.

Jesus's response to the Pharisees says a lot about who He is. Some skeptics say Jesus never claimed to be God during His life, but no one who understands the Old Testament can read this account and not see that Jesus was boldly claiming to be God's equal. He willingly received praise as God, something that would have been considered blasphemy if He were just any other man. So confident was Jesus in His response that He declared the stones would cry out if the disciples remained silent because He deserved to be praised.

What are some ways we might be guilty of stifling praise for God and His Son?

© 2026 Lifeway Christian Resources

GROUP EXPERIENCE

THE KING REVEALED

Read Luke 19:28-40. In the columns below, write down how these actions of Jesus point to His earthly and/or heavenly identity.

	EARTHLY IDENTITY	HEAVENLY IDENTITY
INSTRUCTIONS TO THE DISCIPLES (vv. 29-31)		
PREDICTING THE FUTURE (vv. 32-34)		
RIDING A COLT (v. 35)		
RECEIVING PRAISE FROM THE CROWD (vv. 37-38)		
REBUTTAL TO THE PHARISEES (vv. 39-40)		

How do Jesus's humility and royal identity encourage and challenge us to live as we follow in His footsteps?

© 2026 Lifeway Christian Resources

Key Concept: Jesus is the humble King as prophesied, bringing peace and glory to God.

HEAD

What practices could help you read the Bible in a way that sees its bigness and leads your heart to burn with worship for Christ?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 150. Consider the praises of God's people as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. There are so many reasons to praise God, and one way we can do that is through prayer. Use Psalm 150 as a guide to help you praise Him in prayer right now.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES

HEART

How does seeing Jesus's humility change the way you see yourself and others?

HANDS

How will you praise Jesus as your King with your words and actions this week?

© 2026 Lifeway Christian Resources