



Good Shepherd
Sermon-Based Study Guide
Matthew 21: 1-11 | March 29, 2026
Prepared by Janae Barker
janae@gspc.org | (562) 493-2553 x109

I. Introduction to this Study

This week we continue through our series through the season of Lent. This week we recognize and celebrate Palm Sunday together. As we hear the Triumphal Entry, as Jesus enters Jerusalem, He is publicly revealed as King—but not in the way people expect. The crowd celebrates Him yet misunderstands Him. This moment exposes not only who Jesus is, but also what kind of King we truly want. Likewise, we too can come to Jesus with our own expectations and miss out on who He truly is. Let's dive in together!

II. Connecting with One Another

When you hear the word "king," what comes to mind? While many of us do not have experience with a king, all of us have experience with leaders. What kind of leader do people naturally want?

Do you tend to celebrate Jesus more for who He is, or for what you hope He will do for you? Why?

III. Study the Text

Read **Matthew 21: 1-11**. Re-read **Matthew 21: 1-5**.

- Why do you think Jesus choose a donkey to enter in on instead of something more powerful like a horse? What does this reveal about the kind of King Jesus is?
- This passage fulfills a prophesy from **Zechariah 9:9**. Why is it important that that Jesus fulfills prophecy?
- Put yourself in the disciples' shoes for a moment – how do you think they are feeling being told such specific instructions?

Re-read **Matthew 21: 6-8**.

- The disciples obey without hesitation – what stands out about their response?
- Why do people lay down cloaks and branches? What was this communicating?
- What does it look like today to "lay something down" before Jesus?



Re-read **Matthew 21: 9-11**.

- The crowd shouts “Hosanna” – what does that word mean? What does this reveal about what they people expected Jesus to do?
- Why do you think the same crowd that praises Jesus here will later turn against Him?

IV. Reflect and Respond

- What tensions do you see between who Jesus actually is and what the crowd expects him to be?
- How does Jesus redefine power and kingship in this passage?
- Where might you be praising Jesus for the wrong reasons (what you want Him to be rather than who He is)?
- In what areas of your life do you want Jesus to be King – but only on your terms?

V. Prayer

- Praise Jesus as the true King – gentle, humble, and worthy of worship.
- Confess ways you’ve wanted Him to meet your expectations instead of trusting His ways.
- Ask God to reshape your understanding of who Jesus is.
- Pray for hearts that don’t just celebrate Jesus in moments but follow Him consistently.
- Ask for courage to surrender areas of your life where you are resisting His Kingship.

VI. Digging Deeper

As we begin Holy Week this Sunday, we encourage you set apart more time to walk with Jesus through this week. Join us for a time of Prayer and Communion recognizing Maundy Thursday, Jesus’ last meal with his disciples, Thursday, April 2nd from 6-7pm in Zirbel Hall. Good Friday, a time set apart to consider Jesus’ crucifixion on Friday, April 3rd at 7pm will be in the Sanctuary. Invite a friend and come early to celebrate the joy of Easter Sunday, April 5th at 9 or 10:45!

