



WHEN LOVE COMES TO TOWN

SESSION 9

HOMEGROUPS@WEST

All Hail King Jesus

Context: You wind up through the sandy hills from Jericho, the lowest point on the face of the earth, through the Judean desert, climbing all the way. Halfway up, you reach sea level; you've already climbed a long way from the Jordan valley, and you still have to ascend a fair-sized mountain. It is almost always hot; since it seldom if ever rains, it's almost always dusty as well. That was the way the pilgrims came, with Jesus going on ahead, as he had planned all along. This was to be the climax of his story, of his public career, of his vocation. He knew well enough what lay ahead, and had set his face to go and meet it head on. He couldn't stop announcing the kingdom, but that announcement could only come true if he now embodied in himself the things he'd been talking about. This is the beginning of the final stage of Jesus' mission.

Have you ever been in a major street event or parade? Share your experiences.

Read Luke 19:28-40



Here we witness Jesus is publically laying his claim as the Son of David, to the throne of David in the walled City of David. This is the only time that Jesus publicly stepped into this role. He is going for maximum publicity and unambiguous clarity - he was declaring that he was the people's awaited King and Messiah. Jesus rides into His capitol city (at this time heavily fortified) as a conquering King and is hailed by the people as such, as in the custom of the day. He ascends not to a temporal palace but the spiritual place.

Explore the text

- 1. How do the different people who witness and participate in the event see and respond to what they see and what it means?**
- 2. Luke knew Zechariah 9.9, the prophecy of the Messiah riding on a young donkey, and he uses the word that occurs there. What do you think the two disciples who are dispatched to find the colt were imagining?**

Pilgrims always sang on the way to Jerusalem: a song of victory, a hymn of praise to the God who defeats all his foes and establishes his kingdom. Jesus will himself quote from the psalm in one of his debates in Jerusalem (20.17). He comes himself as the fulfilment of the nation's hopes, answering their longings for a king who would bring peace to earth from heaven itself.

- 3. Are we ready to sing a psalm of praise, but only as long as Jesus seems to be doing what we want? The long and dusty pilgrim way of our lives gives most of us plenty of time to sort out our motives for following Jesus in the first place. Are we ready not only to spread our cloaks on the road in front of him, to do the showy and flamboyant thing, but also now to follow him into trouble, controversy, trial and death?**

Luke's explicit mention of disciples as the source of praise is important, because they form the catalyst for the praise from the crowds the other Gospels note. This detail explains how a few days later the same crowd can urge that Jesus be crucified. Their praise of Jesus is lukewarm and follows the lead of other, more sincere followers. The popular masses are always fluctuating in their understanding of Jesus. The disciples praise of God is also praise of Jesus. They proclaim the hope of Psalm 118: 26, where blessing falls on the king who comes in the name of the Lord.



- 4. The story seems to be the fulfillment of all that Jesus has demonstrated and taught- there is a celebration of the crowds- a bit like Leicester's victory parade last season. How can the ultimate victory of Jesus be celebrated by today's disciples and crowds?**

Apply the meaning Look again at v 37-38 and share with others your understanding and experience of worship, both personal and corporate. Allow Jesus' triumphal entry to invade your heart and worship Him together for his reign of love and peace in the lives of the group.

