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# THE REAL JESUS NO ONE KNEW

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## STUDY NOTES FOR CARE GROUPS – (Luke 19:37-44)

The following are resource questions that you can use with your Care Group for discussion. They are based on the sermon preached on Sunday, March 28, 2010, by Elder Tony Chan at the Grace Baptist Church, Singapore. The sermon is available online at <http://www.gracebap.org.sg/worship/series.html>.

*March 28, 2010*

As we turn to Luke 19:28-44, we will find our Lord preparing himself to ride into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday as the Prince of Peace in order to establish peace with God and offer his people the possibility of experiencing that peace as they place their faith in him as their Messiah-King. And in that setting the following was true:

- 1) Politically, the Jewish people had been held captive by the Roman Empire for decades.
- 2) Religiously, the spiritual leadership had wrongly used the Law of Moses to keep the people captive.
- 3) Socially, the nation was being held captive by its hatred of the Romans, Samaritans, Gentiles and even each other, as well as by its self-righteousness.

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## THE TIME OF PREPARATION IN LUKE 19:28-31:

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The colt was an important symbol of our Lord's overall plan to officially present himself to the nation not only as the Messiah-King, but also as their prophetically promised Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). He would also fulfill the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, as we will see in a moment. But keep in mind that while Jesus was preparing to present himself to the nation as the long-awaited King of Israel and Savior of mankind, the chief priests were preparing to take counsel to seize and kill him (John 12:13).

The Scriptures are full of stories about how God took the time to prepare the hearts of people to hear the truth about himself and his Son. Paul wrote to the Galatians, "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son..." (Galatians 4:4). Here our God was using the Jewish symbols of a Passover feast, a sacrificial lamb, and an unbroken colt to help them understand that he was presenting his Son to the nation and the world. The spiritual leadership of Israel wouldn't accept him as the King of Israel or the King of kings, but eventually they would accept him as the Passover Lamb.

1. What was Jesus' purpose in making this public entry into Jerusalem? What picture of the nature of His kingship did He give by it? (cf. Zech. 9:9)
2. Why would Jesus want a donkey colt to ride into Jerusalem? Matthew 21:4-5. Besides fulfilling Zechariah 9:9, what was the significance of using the colt instead of the adult donkey? Luke 19:30

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## THE DISCIPLES WELCOME THEIR KING-LUKE 19:35-38

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It was this crowd of believers that was available to follow Jesus as he rode on a colt into Jerusalem. Once the colt arrived, the disciples "...threw their garments on the colt, and put Jesus on it." And as our Lord was placed on the colt, the prophecy of Zechariah, was about to be fulfilled. Zechariah 9:9.

Jesus Christ was preparing for the first time during his ministry to be declared the King of Israel, the long-awaited Messiah, the Son of David, and he was going to enter Jerusalem, the city of peace, not as a warrior messiah who would physically conquer the Roman army, but as the prophetic Prince of Peace who would seek to conquer the spiritual hearts of the people.

He was coming to offer personal salvation, which in turn would indeed have brought blessings to Israel as a nation so that Israel would once again be a light of truth to the other nations of the world. Societies are changed when the hearts of the people are changed and filled with the righteousness of God through his Son Jesus Christ.

3. What did the people do as Jesus got closer to Jerusalem?(Luke 19:37) What did the crowd shout? (Mark 11:9) Where did they get these words?(Psalm 118:25-26)

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### MANY REJECT THE PRINCE OF PEACE AND HIS KINGDOM:

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Let's read on in Luke 19:39-40: Many of the Pharisees who were blinded by a religious system that promoted power, fear, jealousy, and greed had been plotting to seize the Lord without arousing the crowds. This was the moment when the leadership rejected Jesus as their Messiah. They were saying, "These people are calling you 'King of Israel' when we all know that there is only one king, and that is Caesar."

There is religious ritual and there is spiritual reality, and the two will never mix. To become a follower of mere religious ritual will result in spiritual death. To become a believer in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior will result in spiritual life.

4. Did everyone in the crowd get into the celebration of Jesus' entry as Messiah-King?(Luke 19:39). How did Jesus respond? (Luke 19:40).

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### THE PRINCE OF PEACE WILL PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE FOR PEACE

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Look at Luke 19:41-44: As our Lord approached the city gates in the midst of the crowds of singing disciples and onlookers, his heart was broken because he saw the heart of the majority of the people that he came to love, and already they had rejected him and all the blessings he was to bring. So now it was time for judgment. The things that make for peace were hidden from their eyes because of unbelief. We see that as the Messiah-King and Prophet looked over the crowds, it caused him to weep over Jerusalem.

5. How did Jesus show His concern for Jerusalem? (Luke 19:41-44) Did Jesus bask in this praise-filled attention He was being given? (Luke 19:41) Why did Jesus cry for Jerusalem?(Luke 19:42)

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### WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ON THAT FIRST PALM SUNDAY?

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1. Jesus the incarnate Son of God prepared to offer himself to Israel as their long-awaited Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6; Zechariah 9:9) and their King-Messiah (Psalm 118:26). He came to offer them not only himself but also the gift of salvation, to set up his kingdom of righteousness in their hearts.

2. Many responded to his offer, but
3. Most of the nation rejected the Prince of Peace and his invitation of redemption, so
4. He wept over their future physical, emotional and spiritual destruction.

Because of their rejection Jesus had to finish out the week as the final Passover Lamb who willingly died for the sins of the world. But because of his death on the cross, his resurrection, and his Ascension into the presence of his Father where he now reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords, we see the greatest redeeming value of the events of that first Palm Sunday and how they affect us in our individual lives.

What should our response be to King of kings?

1. We should confess our sins and accept Him as Lord of our lives, because Jesus sees us as we really are and has compassion on us,
2. We should cast all of our cares on Him, because Jesus cares for us.
3. We should completely commit ourselves to Jesus, because Jesus knows us.