

# the next step

## stepping out and following where He leads

Jesus' summons is simple - 'Follow Me!'

As His disciples, those who have responded to His call, the church is, by definition, a people on the move.

As Ruth said to Naomi, so His church says to Jesus, 'Where you go, I will go.' We are bold, therefore, both as individuals and as a local fellowship of believers, to step out in faith and to follow where He leads. 'The next step' is always the most important one and it's what that 'next step' looks like for ourselves that this series of studies addresses.



You can find the background to this short series here.

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## 5. Jesus is Lord!

(Luke 19.28-44)

[w/b Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020]

*“.. the King who comes ..”*

Integral to growth is the kingship of Jesus in our lives: only as He is recognized and acknowledged as Lord will growth occur. Hence our taking the time in this study to look afresh at the events of what we know as ‘Palm Sunday’, when Jesus entered Jerusalem as King.

The Scriptures never separate Jesus as Saviour from Jesus as Lord, as if there were two levels of commitment, two degrees of experience, or two steps of faith: He is only ever Saviour as He is also Lord. Whoever calls on the name of the **Lord** will be saved!

*[Although there are 7 questions as ever, all of them important, your Community Group may choose to concentrate on just some of them. Key questions in this study are probably 3, 4 and 6. As always try to leave good time for shared prayer!]*

*Hopefully there’ll again be a video introduction to this study under ‘Resources/Live streams and videos’ on the website.*

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1. **Read Luke 19.28-44.** Our very familiarity with a narrative can sometimes mean we lose its thrust: try reading, as if for the very first time, Luke’s record of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem.

As a ‘first-time’ observer, what details of the narrative do you find particularly striking?

How and when did Jesus enter into the 'city' of your life as King?

**2. Read Luke 19.28-31.** This is nearing the climax of a journey to Jerusalem whose starting point Luke had recorded much earlier, and whose culmination will be His ascension.

Read **Luke 9.51**: why does Luke see such significance in this journey of Jesus to Jerusalem?

What do you think Luke means us to learn by detailing just how Jesus came by the colt on which He would ride into Jerusalem?

**3. Read Luke 19.32-36.** The owners of the colt, the disciples themselves, and 'people' more generally, are willing to part with what is theirs and honour Jesus thereby.

In what respects (if any!) are you challenged by the repeated statement - "*The Lord needs it*" (vv.31 & 34)?

What were the people signifying by spreading their cloaks on the road?

4. **Read Luke 19.37-38.** From the top of the Mount of Olives it's downhill: the procession gathers pace .. and the praise of Jesus' disciples will be gathering to it the scorn of religious leaders.

What prompted the praise of the disciples here, and what over the past weeks has prompted such praise in you?

Read **Luke 2.13-14**: what do you think Luke meant to convey by recording the echo of the praise of a 'great company of the heavenly host' in the praise here of 'the whole crowd of disciples'?

5. **Read Luke 19.39-40.** The Pharisees wouldn't have missed the similarity of the scene to the words of the prophet (Zech.9.9): clearly they were very uncomfortable with the whole scenario!

Why did they think Jesus should be rebuking His disciples?

Read **Lk.19.44, 20.17f, and 21.5f**: what message did Jesus anticipate the stones (not least of the temple) would be declaring?

6. **Read Luke 19.41-42.** The entry of Jesus into Jerusalem had a somber side to it: the old order of things was about to change and the people of Jerusalem were not prepared to embrace it.

Why did Jesus weep, and what does that tell you about Him?

Read **Neh.1.1-4**: what prompts such weeping in the hearts of God's people?

What steps might reflecting on these verses make you take, when you see today 'the foundations are being destroyed' (Ps.11.3)?

**7. Read Luke 19.43-44.** Jesus grieves as He here anticipates the wholesale destruction of the city of Jerusalem: this was fulfilled in 70AD when the Romans crushed a Jewish revolt and razed the city to the ground.

What did Jesus pinpoint as the reason for this destruction of Jerusalem?

What could be referred to as 'the time of God's coming to you' in the experience of an individual?

*Turn the final half-sentence of v.44 into a prayer for people you know who have yet to trust in Jesus.*