

'Rejoice!'

Celebrating all that Jesus is and does

"If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out" (Lk.19.40)

Easter is the major Christian festival of the year! The whole message of the Bible circles down to Jesus' death and resurrection. This week becomes therefore a focal point for our walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

'The kingdom of God' was the great theme of the preaching of Jesus. And it is the kingship of Jesus which Luke is concerned to highlight throughout his gospel account. This has been a discrete theme running through all the previous chapters, but in the latter part of his gospel record Luke brings it right to the fore.

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The King

".. blessed is the King .."

Luke 19.28-40

We now call it Palm Sunday. But of course back then it was just the first day of another working week, albeit a rather special week with the Passover coming and the crowds converging on the city.

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1. Read Luke 19.28-40. The narrative here describes the way in which Jesus chose, very deliberately, to make His entry into the city of Jerusalem, and the way in which people welcomed Him.

When and how and why did you first welcome Jesus into the 'city' of your heart?

What are the points of identity between the welcome which Luke describes here and your on-going walk with Jesus?

2. Read Luke 19.28-34. Bethphage and Bethany are on the east side of the Mount of Olives: from the Mount of Olives Jesus would cross the Kidron Valley into Jerusalem.

To what extent is your giving (of time, money, etc) shaped by the reality expressed here, 'The Lord needs it'?

During this Holy Week, ask yourself – 'what does the Lord need from me'?

3. Read Luke 19.35-36. Cloaks are thrown on the colt and Jesus is sat upon it: as He begins His journey into Jerusalem people spread their cloaks on the road.

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

To what might this equate in your response to Jesus?

4. Read Luke 19.37-40. The crowds welcome Jesus with loud voices as they remember the miracles they'd seen: His coming to Jerusalem is seen by them as fulfilling their messianic hope.

What prompts *you* to praise God like this?

Read **Zechariah 9.9**: why was 'Daughter Zion' to rejoice greatly?

Is your life characterized by such *rejoicing*?

How is such joy stirred and sustained in our hearts?