



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 30

## TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

*The people celebrate their King while others plot His death.*



**MONDAY**

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### **THE STORY: JOHN 12:12-16**

The crowd celebrated Jesus as king. The crowds assembled for the Passover. Those who saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead went out to meet Jesus when they heard that He was on His way into Jerusalem. The people shouted a phrase from Psalm 118:26, saying, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” This was in keeping with the prophecy of Zechariah, who said, “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples still had no clue of all that was unfolding before their eyes. They, like the people around them, thought Jesus would be a political Messiah. They would be surprised as much as anyone by His arrest.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

Did the people know that Jesus was coming to take away sins? (No. They thought he was coming to be anointed king of Israel and bring God’s judgment to the Romans.)

Why did God have Zechariah prophesy something about a donkey ahead of time if the disciples didn't even recognize the fulfillment of the word at the time? (One of the benefits is that all those who come later get a clear view of God's sovereignty. God demonstrates here, and in many other places, His absolute control over all things to the very last detail. Jesus didn't come by chance, but by the perfect, predetermined plan of God.)

How does knowing God is in control of everything help build your faith? (Parents, draw out your children. Help them to see that if God knows all the details, He knows who they are. If God is in control of all things, He can save them!)

**PRAY:**

Thank God for His amazing plan of salvation. Pray that it come to each member of your family.



**T U E S D A Y**

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**THE STORY: JOHN 12:17-19**

The pharisees jealously watched and waited for a time to kill Jesus. John records several references to the religious rulers wanting to kill Jesus (John 5:18, 7:19, 7:25, 8:40). They even plotted to kill Lazarus because they viewed him as the reason why so many people were flocking to Jesus (John 12:10). Matthew records their scheme: "They plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him, 'But not during the Feast,' they said, 'or there may be a riot among the people.'" The crowds believed Jesus would usher in the kingdom. His entrance into Jerusalem at the time of Passover (one of the busiest times of the year) only made for more commotion.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why did the Pharisees dislike Jesus so much? (The Romans entrusted power to rule over Jerusalem to the Pharisees and other religious rulers. They loved that power. Jesus represented trouble for them and their relationship with Rome. In

addition, they enjoyed exalting themselves and having the people look up to them. Now, the people were looking to Jesus, and they were jealous.)

Do we ever struggle in the same ways? (Yes. Any time we want people's attention on us too much, we fall into the same sin pattern as the Pharisees. We want to be admired for our importance or our good works. Because we long to be exalted, instead of exalting God, we are guilty of the same kind of pride we see in the Pharisees. If we reject the words of Jesus and choose not to follow Him, we are also guilty of the same sins as the religious rulers.)

**PRAY:**

Pray that God would help each member of your family grow in the desire and ability to trust and obey the Lord.



**WEDNESDAY  
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

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**THE STORY: JOHN 12:20-33**

Even as Jesus was riding into Jerusalem, He was aware that the very people who were celebrating His arrival would, in a few days, put Him to death.

Jesus would soon die for the sins of men by suffering on the cross. It is true that Jesus came to earth to be king. But He came as a heavenly king for a spiritual kingdom. That is why He said that if the people did not cry out, the very stones would cry out.

Jesus then predicted His death and announced that the time had come. Some of the very same people, who moments prior hailed Jesus as King in his triumphal entry, would cry out with the religious rulers, "Crucify him!"

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Knowing all that was going to take place, what was Jesus saying about His death in verses 23-32? (Jesus was telling them that the time of His crucifixion was near, that His death would result in life, and that He was sad. He also was telling them in advance that Satan would be defeated by His death, and that His death would draw men back to God.)

What is the struggle of Jesus' heart that we see through His comments in verses 27 and 28? (Jesus was aware of the great suffering ahead. Although He could put a stop to the sacrifice and avoid the suffering, He chose instead to continue in order to bring glory to His Father.)

Jesus struggled when facing the upcoming suffering of the cross. How does that struggle affect you when you realize that He died for you? (Draw out your children's thoughts here. Don't rush. Ask follow-up questions.)

**PRAY:**

Thank Jesus for His willingness to suffer that we might have salvation.



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**THURSDAY**

**THE STORY: JOHN 12:37-50**

Jesus Is rejected by His own people. In spite of all that Jesus did, Luke records that the Jews still did not believe. This was not everyone, but it is safe to assume that more doubted than believed. And once Jesus was arrested and the crowds saw their hopeful ruler tortured and mocked, they turned against Him.

There were others - even some of the rulers - who believed, but they were afraid to tell anyone. In a similar way we can be afraid to share our faith.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What do we call it when we “love praise from men more than praise from God”? (We call that sin the fear of man. When we are afraid of witnessing because of what people will say or think, we are yielding to the fear of man.)

When are you most tempted to fear man more than God? (Parents, start by confessing your own fears and then helping your children share as well.)

**PRAY:**

Pray that God would help you overcome the fear of man in the areas you confessed.



**FRIDAY  
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

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**THE STORY: ISAIAH 6:9,10**

John quotes these words of Isaiah and attributes them to Jesus in John 12:41, saying, “Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about Him”. What an amazing testimony! Isaiah, who lived hundreds of years prior, saw the glory of Jesus! The real connection is not that Isaiah saw Jesus, but that he saw the glory of God. John talks about the glory of Jesus (John 1:14, 2:11). For John, if you see the glory of God, you are seeing the glory of Jesus - for Jesus is God.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Who does this verse speak about? (This verse speaks about those who do not believe in Jesus.)

Who might these verses apply to? (The Pharisees and many of the Jews refused to believe in Jesus and rejected Him [see John 12:37].)

**PRAY:**

Pray that you would not be like those who reject Jesus, but that instead, you would turn your heart toward Him and ask Him to heal you of your sin.