

# The Triumphal Entry



DailyLife  
Five Oaks Church

April 8–14, 2017

# *Day 1*

*April 10*



*Pray | Thank Jesus for submitting to his Father's will.*

JESUS CALLS HIS followers to humility and submission, as he demonstrated perfectly in his life and death.

On the surface, Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem appears to be an event of celebration and recognition for the son of God. The cloaks and branches laid on the ground symbolized submission and victory over the enemy. The cries of "hosanna!" called for salvation. Jesus knew the people were looking for a different kind of savior and that these same people would scream for him to be killed in less than a week. Still he humbly submitted to his Father's will and began the final leg of the journey to his death with a grand parade.

In this, as in his entire life on earth, Jesus modeled humility and the submission to God's will to which we are all called.



*Read | Mark 11:1-11*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Do you view humility and submission as signs of strength or weakness? Explain your answer.

Contrast humility and pride. How does it impact people around you when you demonstrate each? Which do you think God can more readily use for his purposes in your life?

Is there an area of your life in which God is calling you to submit to his will rather than yours? Reflect on the example Jesus set and the sacrifice he made for you. Offer up a prayer of submission to God, knowing that Jesus hears your prayers and in love represents them before God the Father.

## *Day 2*

*April 11*



*Pray | Ask God to continue to reveal his truths to you each day.*

IT ISN'T ENOUGH to know what you believe. You must know why too.

Minnesota sports fans are very familiar with the concept of the bandwagon. Our teams certainly give fans who love to see winning ample opportunity to question their loyalty. Bandwagon fans are not fully invested in the team; their investment is selfish and lacks depth. In the same way, the Jews who celebrated Jesus on Palm Sunday didn't understand who they were celebrating. Their desires were purely selfish. As soon as they realized Jesus' true purpose did not match their expectations, they turned on him.

True followers of Jesus are called to invest selflessly in the priorities of their King and Savior, priorities that bring the love of the King to every human and eternal salvation to all who submit. To endure, such an investment demands a growing knowledge of both the priorities as well as why they matter.



*Read | Matthew 21:1–11*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

How are you growing in your understanding of God's priorities for you and for this world—and why these priorities matter?

What distinguishes a bandwagon Christian from a true follower of Jesus Christ?

Whether you've chosen to make Jesus the Lord of your life or not, take a few minutes to reflect on why you've made that choice. If you have not chosen to make Jesus the Lord of your life, consider the sacrifice of Jesus that we remember in this time of Lent, and consider responding by surrendering your life to him.

## Day 3

April 12



*Pray | Confess your sins to God. Ask him to cleanse you, his temple.*

JESUS PRIORITIZES PURITY and restoration. These priorities often clash with the priorities of the fallen and sinful world.

The words of Jesus and the life he lived on Earth present a model for the life that his followers strive to live. In today's passage, despite the fact that he knows he soon will die a cruel physical death and face separation from his Father, we see that Jesus is still engaging in the daily battle against the corruption and destruction caused by sin, seeking to bring restoration and purity where it is missing.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to the same vigilance for corruption and brokenness in the place God has put us and to courageously bring the good news of hope that only comes from Jesus Christ, through his death and resurrection from the dead.



*Read | Matthew 21:12–17*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

In what aspect of the world in which God has placed you are you being challenged to courageously step up and bring healing and restoration based on what Jesus has done?

Jesus quotes Psalms 8 to the Pharisees when they challenge him about the words of praise from the people: “O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger” (verses 1–2). How do these words encourage and strengthen your resolve to live the life Jesus calls you to?

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, your body is a temple, hosting God’s gift of the Holy Spirit. In what area of your life is God working on to fully restore purity?

*Day 4*  
*April 13*



*Pray | Give praise to God for conquering all his enemies.*

GOD'S PLAN AND purposes are not always immediately clear, but his promises are true.

John's account of Jesus' Triumphal Entry is much more abbreviated but provides some interesting backward-looking perspective of key supporting characters in the story. We see the disciples really had no perspective on the significance of the event and the magnitude of the events that were coming.

Like the disciples, we regularly struggle to see the full picture of God's plan in the events of our days, but we can be confident the truth will be revealed, as it was to the disciples. We also see frustration in the words of Jesus' enemies, whose behaviors ultimately are used by God to accomplish his greater good. God is great! His plans are trustworthy!



*Read | John 12:12–19*





*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

God's plan for you and the people around you, as well as the world, is playing out before you every hour of every day. Living aware of this reality can be very powerful, but it can be a great challenge as Satan, through the world, will do everything possible to distract you. How do you tackle the challenge of staying focused on the reality of God in your day-to-day life?

Looking back on your life, reflect on a specific example of how God's great plan for your life only revealed itself after time passed. How does this reality impact your confidence in God's plan for your future?

How does your confidence in God's promises manifest itself in your day-to-day life and influence those around you to do the same?

## *Day 5*

*April 14*



*Pray | Ask God for eyes and a heart to see people as Jesus sees them.*

JESUS' LOVE FOR the people of this world is without condition.

Luke's account of the Triumphal Entry includes an aspect of the day we don't see in the other Gospels. We see the heart of Jesus revealed as he weeps over the city of Jerusalem. Despite their blindness to his true purpose, and their ultimate rejection of him as the promised Messiah, his heart still breaks for the people of Jerusalem. This final perspective of Jesus from this amazing day of Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem completes a powerful image of Jesus our Savior: humble servant, submissive to the Father's will, passionate about purity, and filled with love for all.

We have no better model to emulate. Go and do likewise!



*Read | Luke 19:28–44*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

How can you get better at seeing and loving people as Jesus sees and loves them?

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus call his followers to be “salt” and “light” to the world (see Matthew 5:13–16). We do this by emulating the love and priorities that Jesus lived out. How is loving the people who don’t love you being salt and light?

Of all the behaviors Jesus demonstrated on the day of his Triumphal Entry, which of them moves your heart? Why?

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