

# PALM SUNDAY: KING OF PEACE

John 12:12-19



## SYNOPSIS

Jesus enters Jerusalem on his 7th and final visit riding a donkey's colt. By doing so, he fulfills Zech 9:9-10, behaving as a king who enters a city in times of peace/flourishing, i.e. shalom. Shalom is not simply the absence of strife. Conflict avoidance, cutting off relationships to avoid drama, is not true peace/shalom. Shalom is a positive peace, a time/place/condition that features love, righteousness, calmness, and more. Eden before the Fall was shalom. Rabbis say the entire Torah was meant to bring about shalom. Jesus came to usher in the Kingdom and will of God, to bring shalom on earth.



## OUTLINE

### 1 PEACE IS FOUND IN A PERSON

After saying many times that his hour/time had not yet come, the hour has finally come for him to be glorified (via the cross). The entry of a king on a donkey (the Mercedes Benz of his time) meant a time of prosperity and wellness. A century of successful resistance against Greece was the most recent memory of palm branches being waved by the Jews. After 60 years of Roman oppression, the Jews were excited that Jesus was behaving like a king. They just didn't realize that the shalom he inaugurated was not primarily political; it was a holistic shalom requiring a complete transformation of our entire world order.

### 2 IGNORING THE SOURCE OF PEACE IS DEVASTATING

Jesus wept as he prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem due to being ignorant of the source of true peace. (Luke 19:41-44) His prophecy was fulfilled ~40 years later. Jesus shows that we can have peace and still weep over places where it is absent. When we want peace, we try to manufacture shalom through distraction (e.g. Netflix) or control (e.g. yelling at kids to achieve silence). We should ask often what it would be like if Jesus ran our lives/homes/organizations/communities. The picture we get would be one of shalom, something that Jesus died to make possible. May we give up our old ways of "manufacturing shalom" and experience whole peace by following God's ways.

### 3 PRAYER RESTORES PEACE

After his triumphal entry, Jesus cleansed the temple a second time. The king of peace rebuked the merchants, saying, "My house will be a house of prayer." (Luke 19:46) There are some situations that have no simple/quick fix, no matter how creative a solution may seem. May we pray the way Jesus taught, "Your [God's] kingdom come, your will be done." Cultivate a heart of prayer for God's kingdom to reign, for his will/ways to settle into those situations. Stay close to God and see the Holy Spirit bring about his kingdom over time.

Our next Life Group quarter will focus on prayer. We will move through 4 postures of prayer: talk to God, talk with God, listen to God, be with God. May we become the temple of God, i.e. a place/community of prayer. Thus, may we appropriate God's shalom into our lives as we seek his face.



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

What is your vision of peace/shalom? How closely does your vision align with God's peace/shalom?

2

How do you deal with the lack of peace in your life? How would you go about finding peace in the person of Jesus?

3

What would your life look like if Jesus were running it? What would change? What would stay the same?

4

Do you believe prayer can restore peace? How might you proactively restore peace through prayer today?

5

Have you ever mourned/wept over a lack of shalom? What would it take for you to do so?



## BIG IDEA

Jesus approaches us as the King of Peace. He fully intends to bring about the righteous flourishing of every part of our lives and world as only he can. May we learn to live into the shalom that he offers through prayer and obedience to God's ways. May we also refuse to settle for false peace and insist on bringing God's shalom into our homes and communities.

Hosanna.

