

Home Group Notes 14th April 2019; Luke 19:26-44

Welcome

Have you ever been persuaded to follow an idea, or a persuasive person or a crowd, against your better judgement?

Worship: Read Psalm 118, verses 19-29

Give thanks for God's steadfast love that he has for each one of us and pray for our success in doing God's will.

Word

1. Read Isaiah 2:2-3, Jeremiah 23:5, 33:14-16, Matthew 3:11-12, Mark 10:35-37, 15:2, 15:16-18.
Who governed Palestine at the time of Jesus?
What were the people's expectations of Jesus (the Messiah)?
Do you think these expectations fitted the Old Testament prophecies?
2. Read Luke 19:26-44 and the Note on Context 1.
Luke 19:26- 27 is the end of the Parable of the ten pounds.
What are the similarities to Archelaus?
How might Jesus be reminding people of powerful and evil forces?
3. What is the atmosphere like as Jesus rides into Jerusalem?
What sorts of changes are the "disciples" expecting?
4. At what time in the Jewish calendar is this narrative taking place?
What might be happening in Jerusalem at this festival?
What might the risks be to the Roman authorities?
5. Read Note on Context 2
What do you think Pilate's parade would have looked like?
What was its purpose?
Where have we seen such parades in our own day?
Where was Rome's power rooted?
6. Look at the two maps at the end of the readings.
Jesus has been staying in Bethany.
Which way would he have taken his procession into the city?

What was the significance of this?

Contrast Jesus's parade to that of Pilate.

What sorts of people would have been in Jesus's parade?

Where was Jesus's power rooted?

7. Read Zechariah 9:9-10
What is the nature of the king in this passage?
To what extent do you think Jesus wished to make a point of following Zechariah's prophecy?
Do you think Jesus might have planned the requisitioning of the donkey?
8. Why did the crowds throw their cloaks down before Jesus?
(Mark describes also how the crowd waved palm leaves).
Read also John 11:43-45, 12:17 and 12:3
9. Read Luke 23:18-23
Why do you think the crowd's mood has changed from that when Jesus's entered into Jerusalem?
Could there be other explanations for how one crowd could be supporting Jesus and another crowd calling for his crucifixion?

Witness

10. How might we, today, be living in times of empire (including empire of ideas)?
11. What did Jesus do in his 3 ½ years of ministry on earth?
How should we be doing his work on earth today?
12. What has he done since?
13. Which parade do we wish to join:
 - That of empire?
 - That of Jesus?

PRAYERS

- **The defeat of empire and the establishment of God's Kingdom.**
- **Our government and the Brexit conundrum.**
- **That our hands might do the work that Jesus wants.**
- **The sick and those who have lost loved ones.**
- **Pray for each other and our families and friends.**