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## Lesson Overview

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**Biblical Passage** Luke 19:28-40

**Supporting Passages** Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-19

**Memory Verse** John 4:24

**Biblical Truth** True worship comes when you understand and respond to who Jesus really is.

**Context** A few days before the Passover, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey amidst the praise of crowds of people, many of whom really did not understand Him or His mission.

**Learning Goals**

- Students will understand that worship begins with recognition of the Lord.
- Students will apply their understanding of true worship in evaluating their worship experiences.

**Prayer Suggestions**

As you prepare to teach this lesson, pray for your students.

- Pray that your students will know God.
- Pray that your students will become true worshipers.
- Pray that your students will seek and live out God's plan and His will for their lives.

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## Biblical Commentary

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### Investigation

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Throughout His ministry, Jesus patiently moved toward the day that would complete His atoning work. He knew this day would come and that it would include His brutal death on the cross. So Jesus moved closer to **Jerusalem** in anticipation. His movement toward the famed city is a stirring example of His commitment to carry out His Father's will. It began the string of events we know as the Passion Week. This event represents an important dividing point in Jesus' ministry. His Galilean ministry had come to an end, and He was entering Jerusalem where His time on earth would climax.

The event occurred on the Roman road to Jerusalem from the city of Jericho. This 17-mile road climbs 3,000 feet (explaining why Jesus went *up* to Jerusalem). Near Jerusalem, the road passes through Bethany and Bethpage, which lie on the southeastern slope of the Mount of Olives. Leaving these small villages, the road passes through the Kidron Valley and then enters Jerusalem.

Concerning the time of this event, Jesus arrived in Bethany "six days before the **Passover**" (John 12:1), which was probably early on Friday evening (the beginning of the Sabbath) before the Passion Week. Likely, He stayed in Bethany for the Sabbath and then entered Jerusalem on Sunday. This line of reasoning explains the historic celebration of Palm Sunday.

### Importance

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This passage teaches that **Jesus is God and Savior**. This passage of Scripture is important for students because it helps them understand that worship begins with recognition of the Lord and challenges them to evaluate their own worship experiences.

### Interpretation

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**Luke 19:28-29** Approaching Jerusalem, Jesus began to make preparations to enter the city to complete His work on earth. Luke included the names of the villages, Bethpage and Bethany, possibly to let his readers know how close Jesus was to the city where He would give His life. The two villages were less than two miles from Jerusalem across the winding Kidron Valley. They sat on a hill known as the Mount of Olives that overlooked the city. No doubt Jesus used this vantage point to look at the city where the world would be forever changed through His death.

**Luke 19:30-31** In preparation for His entrance, Jesus sent two of His disciples to get a colt. Interestingly, His words of command and explanation to the disciples took on an authoritative tone. In this, we see His divine

nature, which would complete the work only He could do. The disciples would find a colt. If questioned about taking it, they would have an answer that would be sufficient. In identifying Himself as “Lord,” Jesus was continuing to reveal to others His true identity—the Lord God of Israel.

Though not mentioned by Luke, Matthew tells us Jesus’ actions once again fulfilled Old Testament prophecy concerning His life (Matt. 21:4-5).

**Luke 19:32-34** The disciples found and acquired the colt just as Jesus said they would, confirming His sovereign authority. The background passages note that some people who saw what they were doing questioned the disciples. The disciples “answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go” (Mark 11:6).

**Luke 19:35-36** Jesus’ dramatic act of riding a donkey’s colt was filled with symbolism. In Israel’s earlier days, the king had a donkey only he would ride. When the king traveled throughout the land to visit the people during times of peace, he would ride his donkey or mule (1 Kings 1:33-35). The fact that Jesus sent the disciples to get a colt “which no one has ever ridden” (Luke 19:30) points back to the animal reserved for the king alone. In addition, it established Jesus as the King. This was His royal entry into the city just like the entry of earlier Israelite kings who visited their subjects in the same manner.

For centuries, Israel had expected the **Messiah** to come as a king who would restore their nation to the glory and independence they once knew. Because of what the people of Israel had experienced in Jesus for three years, many probably believed Him to be their long-awaited Messiah. They gave Him a welcome fit for a king. They spread out their coats along His path as an act of honor, just as the ancient people of the northern kingdom had done for King Jehu (2 Kings 9:13). From the background passages, we know the crowd also spread out branches to line the path.

**Luke 19:37-38** The crowd stood just after the crest of the hill on the Mount of Olives. From there, the city of Jerusalem could first be viewed in all its glory, and the golden splendor of the Temple stood out like a radiant sun. Certainly, this majestic sight added to the excitement of the moment for those in the crowd. For some of those making the pilgrimage, this was probably the first time they had ever seen the Holy City. There was a triumphant tone in the air as the crowd responded to Jesus’ entrance.

We see three significant points from the crowd’s makeup, actions, and words. While Matthew referred to the people gathered as a “very large crowd” (Matt. 21:8), it was made up of at least two different groups of people. The first were those traveling with Jesus. These people had witnessed some of His recent miracles such as the healing of two blind men in Jericho (Matt. 20:29-34). A second group included those already in Jerusalem. They came out to meet Jesus as He entered the city (John 12:12). During the Passover, the road was full of people traveling into the city from locations both near and far.

Because so many Jews were in the city during the Passover, Jesus’ entry caused quite a stir (Matt. 21:10). When a city is saturated with visitors as Jerusalem was at Passover, only a very large crowd could draw attention. As previously noted, the actions of many people in the crowd were in response to the miracles they had seen.

Though the Jews’ praise and honor might seem sincere, they suffered from a misconception of what the Messiah would do. Luke did not mention it, but the people likely expected Jesus to be a political and military Savior. Yet Jesus was not coming to Jerusalem to set up an earthly kingdom and restore the former fame and fortune of Israel. In a matter of days, He would be arrested, tried, and executed. These would-be worshipers could not comprehend this imminent reality. While some in the crowd were likely caught up in the excitement of the moment, others clearly worshiped Jesus. But they did not understand the One they were **worshipping**.

The words the crowds shouted were significant. They also appear in the Book of Psalms (Ps. 118:26), and ancient

Israelites may have sung them as they entered the Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles. However, notice that the crowd referred to the “*king who comes*” (emphasis added) rather than “he who comes” as found in the original psalm. Clearly, they were acknowledging Jesus as King. From the background passages, we know the crowd shouted “Hosanna” (Mark 11:9), which means “Save now!” They saw Him as their Savior, yet their understanding was flawed.

**Luke 19:39-40** To close this account, Luke wrote that not everyone joined in the celebration. The **Pharisees** were not at all happy to see such a warm welcome for Jesus, for they had had many confrontations with Him. The Pharisees and chief priests had been plotting to kill Jesus since He raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:45-57). When they saw the scene and heard the words of the crowd, they called on Jesus to rebuke or scold His followers for the implications of their actions; the crowd believed Jesus to be the Messiah, which was blasphemy in the Pharisees’ eyes. In response to their demand, Jesus’ words implied that His identity as God incarnate could not be hidden any longer, so praise was the appropriate response from those around Him. Jesus said that if the praise didn’t come from the people, it would come from the stones on the ground.

## Implications

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Jesus was going to die, and He knew it. While the crowds expected otherwise, during His entrance into Jerusalem Jesus was fully aware of the violent and painful death that was awaiting Him. Jesus rode the young colt through the crowds as they passionately praised and worshiped Him. At the same time, Jesus knew many of the same people would show nothing but hatred toward Him in only a matter of days. Do misconceptions of who Jesus is affect our worship today? How can you help your students examine their own understandings of Jesus?

Jesus began the most gruesome week in all of history by receiving praise. But since that week in Jerusalem, many people around the world have turned their backs on Him. Will we join the crowds when it is exciting, only to turn away when they deny Him? Or will we continue to praise Him in all circumstances? Are you ever guilty of praising Jesus in a vibrant worship service on Sunday but failing to worship Him when no one else is around?

Jesus came to be the Suffering Savior—God who came to take our punishment on the cross and set us free from sin. But many in the crowd worshiped One they didn’t really know. Does it motivate us to worship Him when we experience who He is?

It was appropriate for the Jerusalem crowd to worship Jesus in public recognition of His identity as Messiah. It is still important for us to worship Him for the same reason. Worship is a witness to people watching us and seeking insights about our Lord from us who claim to have a vibrant relationship with Him. Though your worship is not for anyone but God alone, think about the message your worship communicates to others (especially unbelievers) about the Lord who saved you, loves you, and changed you. Are there changes you need to make in how you worship? How can you help your students understand the important witness of their honest worship?

## Teaching Plan

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### Connect

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#### Review Questions

*(5–8 minutes, easy set-up)*

*Students will answer five review questions from the previous lesson.*

*Download the “Review Questions” activity sheet. Print one copy for your own use.*

After greeting students, use the review questions to test what they can recall from the previous lesson as well as to provide context for today’s lesson.

#### Master Teacher Option: How Do You Celebrate?

*(10 minutes, easy set-up)*

*Students will plan two different celebrations: one for an unknown celebrity and one for someone they know.*

*Hang two large sheets of butcher paper on the wall. Write the name of a celebrity on a 3 x 5 index card. On another card write your pastor or youth pastor’s name. Fold cards in half to conceal the names.*

Divide students into two groups. Tell one member from each group to choose a card. Say: **Each group will plan a celebration for the person whose name is written on their card. Be as elaborate and creative as you can be. Remember that the object is to honor the person, so plan an event you know they’d love.**

Tell students to write their plans on one of the sheets of butcher paper. Allow three minutes, and then ask each team to share their plans. Ask: **Was it easier to plan a celebration for someone you know or someone you don’t know?** After students answer explain that today we will discuss the truth that we cannot truly worship Jesus if we do not know Him.

### Explore

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#### Master Teacher Key Study: His Triumphant Entry Into Jerusalem

*(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)*

*Students will examine Luke 19:28–40 and discuss the reaction of the disciples, the Pharisees, and the crowd to Jesus’ triumphal entry.*

*Use the Master Teacher Outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with students. Download the Master Teacher Worksheet. Print a copy for each student. Encourage students to take notes on their worksheets as you teach. The underlined words in the Master Teacher Key Study correspond to the blanks on the worksheet.*

**Learning Goal:** Students will understand that worship begins with recognition of the Lord.

Pass out pens and copies of the Master Teacher Student Worksheet. Then use the Master Teacher Key Study to teach Luke 19:28-40.

## Transform

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### Deeper Discussion

*(10 minutes, easy set-up)*

*Students will discuss authentic worship and evaluate their own acts of worship.*

**Learning Goal:** Students will apply their understanding of true worship in evaluating their worship experiences.

Ask a student to read Luke 19:28-40. Discuss the following questions:

- **What items symbolize power to you? Is the cross such a symbol?**
- **The crowd worshiped Jesus although they didn't recognize Him for who He is. How does that motivate you to a greater worship of the Christ whom you know? Are people around you offended by the praise of Christians?**
- **Do you ever praise Jesus in a vibrant worship service on Sunday but fail to worship Him on Tuesday morning when you're not around anyone else?**
- **Do you praise God in all circumstances?**
- **How can you make sure your worship is genuine?**

### Master Teacher Option: Name His Character

*(10 minutes, easy set-up)*

*Students will list names of God that reflect His power and character.*

*Hang a long sheet of butcher paper on the wall. Provide several colorful markers.*

**Learning Goal:** Students will apply their understanding of true worship in evaluating their worship experiences.

Say: **Think about God's character. He is so infinite that our words are not enough to describe Him. Close your eyes and think of one aspect of God's character that has been especially real in**

**your life.** (For example, God is the Provider as you see Him meet all your needs; God is the Healer if you've been ill; God is the Faithful Friend when you feel lonely.) Encourage students to share one way that God has been real to them and give God a name that represents what you have experienced.

Tell students to walk silently to the paper and cover it with words that describe God's character. Encourage them to meditate on this characteristic of God this week and to praise Him every day for it. Once they are finished, ask a volunteer to close in prayer, thanking God for who He is.

## Take Home Activity

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### Family Devotion

*(10-15 minutes at home, easy set-up)*

*Distribute copies of the Family Devotion to students and encourage them to share the devotion with their family.*

A copy of the Family Devotion will be included in your lesson PDF download.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

(5-8 minutes, easy set-up)

*Use these questions to review the content from Lesson 33: Mary's Anointing of Jesus  
The correct answer for each question is printed in bold, italic font.*

1. Who were Jesus' friends He visited in Bethany? (*Lesson 33*)
  - a. Paul and Barnabas
  - b. Nicodemus and his family
  - c. Lazarus, Mary, and Martha**
  - d. Peter and his family
  
2. In whose honor was a dinner given, while Jesus was visiting friends in Bethany? (*Lesson 33*)
  - a. Jesus'**
  - b. Mary's
  - c. Martha's
  - d. Lazarus'
  
3. What did Mary use to anoint Jesus' feet? (*Lesson 33*)
  - a. Water
  - b. Expensive perfume**
  - c. Olive oil
  - d. Expensive lotion
  
4. Who objected to Mary's use of expensive perfume? (*Lesson 33*)
  - a. Peter
  - b. John
  - c. Judas**
  - d. Lazarus
  
5. What did Jesus say when Judas objected to Mary using perfume on Jesus' feet? (*Lesson 33*)
  - a. He told Mary to continue.
  - b. He asked Mary to stop.
  - c. He said to leave her alone.**
  - d. He told Judas to zip it.

### Master Teacher Key Study: His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)

Students will examine Luke 19:28–40 and discuss the reaction of the disciples, the Pharisees, and the crowd to Jesus' triumphal entry.

Use this outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with students. Download the Master Teacher Worksheet. Print a copy for each student. Encourage students to take notes on their worksheets as you teach. The underlined words in the Master Teacher Key Study correspond to the blanks on the worksheet.

**Introduction:** Jesus was going to die, and He knew it. A few days before the Passover, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey amidst the praise of crowds. These crowds were comprised of those who knew Jesus and those who knew of Jesus. His entrance begins the string of events we know today as Passion Week. This event represents an important dividing point in Jesus' ministry: His Galilean ministry had come to an end, and He was entering Jerusalem where His time on earth would end.

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#### 1. Jesus' riding a donkey colt into Jerusalem was a startling symbol (Luke 19:28–35).

- In preparation for His entrance, Jesus sent two of His disciples to find a donkey's colt.
- In identifying Himself as "Lord," Jesus was continuing to reveal to others His true identity—the Lord (or God) of Israel.
- Jesus' actions once again fulfilled Old Testament prophecy concerning His life (Matt. 21:4–5).
- In Israel's earlier days, the king had a donkey that only he would ride. When the king traveled throughout the land to visit the people during times of peace he would ride his donkey or mule. (1 Kings 1:33–35)
- Jesus sent the disciples to get a colt "which no one has ever ridden" (Luke 19:30) referring to an animal that was reserved for the king alone. This established Jesus as King.

**Illustration:** College and professional sports teams work hard at establishing their image through symbols. Whether it be lions or tigers or bears, bulldogs or gators or wildcats, angels or blue devils, the symbol of a sports team is designed to convey the spirit of the team. Be it a hurricane or a green wave, these symbols and their accompanying mascots exert a potent subconscious power on the crowds of fans, causing them to cheer or choke up. When you see the symbol on a shirt or bumper sticker, there is immediate identification with the person wearing it or driving the car. When Jesus chose to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, He was using symbolism to convey who He really was to the crowds who would greet Him.

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#### 2. We are what Jerusalem was: a shallow society (Luke 19:36–38).

- For centuries Israel had expected the Messiah to come as the king who would restore their political nation to the glory and independence they once knew. Though the crowds' praise and honor seemed sincere, many of them suffered from a misconception of what the Messiah would do.
- Because of what the people of Israel had known of Jesus for three years, many likely believed Him to be their long-awaited political Messiah. Thus they gave Him a welcome fit for a king—they spread out their coats along His path as an act of honor.
- Many in the crowds did not know Jesus but had heard of miraculous works He had done and honored Him because of what He could do for them (John 12:12–18).

**3. Jesus declared that if the people didn't praise Him they would hear shouting stones (Luke 19:39–40).**

- The Pharisees and chief priests had been plotting to kill Jesus since He raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:45–57). When they heard the crowd, they called on Jesus to rebuke His followers for believing He was the Messiah—which was blasphemy in the eyes of the Pharisees.
- In response to their demand, Jesus' words implied that His identity as God incarnate could not be hidden any longer; praise was the appropriate response from those around Him.
- Jesus said that if the praise didn't come from the people, it would come from the stones on the ground because all of creation worshiped Him.

**Illustration:** Accustomed to imaginative animation, we see talking candies, scrubbing bubbles, and a laughing boy made of dough and therefore may not have a difficult time imagining singing rocks. But Jesus was not speaking of cartoons or computer animation; all of creation praises its Creator, and worshiping Christ cannot be silenced.

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**Conclusion:** It was appropriate for the crowd in Jerusalem to worship Jesus as the Messiah. Though worship is not for anyone but God alone, it communicates to others the nature of the Lord who saved you, loves you, and changed you. He is fully God. True worship comes when you understand and respond to who Jesus really is not just what He is capable of doing for you.

# LESSON 34

**CHRISTOS**  
STUDENT EDITION

## HIS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

**Biblical Passage:** Luke 19:28–40

**Memory Verse:** John 4:24

“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

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### SIGNIFICANT WORSHIP

1. Jesus’ riding a donkey colt into Jerusalem was a \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 19:28–35).
2. We are what Jerusalem was: a \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 19:36–38).
3. Jesus declared that if the people didn’t praise Him they would hear \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 19:39–40).

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What items symbolize power to you? Is the cross such a symbol?
- The crowd worshiped Jesus although they didn’t recognize Him for who He was. How does that motivate you to a greater worship of the Christ whom you know?
- Are people around you offended by the praise of Christians?
- Do you ever praise Jesus in a vibrant worship service on Sunday but fail to worship Him on Tuesday morning when you’re not around anyone else?
- Do you praise God in all circumstances?
- How can you make sure your worship is genuine?

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### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT . . .

“Only God can change us; we cannot change ourselves. It’s important to understand this, because millions of people spend their lives trying to conquer sin’s power on their own.” —*Billy Graham, The Journey*

# LESSON 34

**CHRISTOS**  
STUDENT EDITION

## HIS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

**Biblical Passage:** Luke 19:28-40

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Students head off to camp each summer, attend conferences, participate in worship each week, and seemingly take an active part, by all appearances. But what happens to students during the week? Sometimes there are big differences seen in a student's life at church as opposed to at school. At church, the senior adults may look at a student and say, "Isn't he a fine Christian boy?" At school, the faculty members may say, "Why can't his parents get control of this kid?"

What is worship? Read Luke 19:28–40. Many of Jesus' followers perceived Him to be someone other than who He really was. They saw Him as an earthly Messiah who would save them from the oppression of the Roman government and the legalism of the Pharisees. The obvious worship they displayed as Jesus rode into Jerusalem would melt away when they realized that He would not fulfill their agenda.

Worship is not just a once-a-week experience that hinges on whether we feel like worshiping or not. It is a lifestyle. The true worshipers of Jesus would be those who discovered the plan of God and would see Jesus as the fulfillment of that plan, joining with Him in faith and trust.

Students may find themselves entering into worship of someone whom they believe will fulfill all of their dreams, when in fact, Jesus wants and requires their worship to be a lifestyle lived in faith. His agenda will be done, but it might not always be our agenda.

We become an example for our teenagers by the way we display worship not only in the times we gather with the church, but in the way we live our lives before God at home and in the workplace. When our kids see us seeking after God, wanting to know His heart, they will follow our lead.

### CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

- Who among the worshipers that day were really worshiping?
- What does worship have to do with a lifestyle as opposed to a one time event or weekly event?
- Do we worship God because of who He is, or because of who we are and because of our own needs?