

Thursday, April 2

Read Luke 19:28-40. This Lenten Series of message is titled *Christ Challenged!* We've talked about the Pharisees, Scribes, Sadducees, the Roman Empire and even Satan as the enemies of Jesus throughout his ministry. On that first Palm Sunday/Monday, it was the Pharisees who showed up, saying to Jesus, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop."

Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." Pastor Jack mentioned that Luke, in his Gospel offers many allusions and quotations from our Hebrew Scriptures. This mention of stones crying out comes from Habakkuk 2:11. This analogy of stones shouting out, begs the question "If others are silent in the presence of Jesus our teacher, Lord and Savior, are we willing to shout his praises and proclaim that his kingdom is at hand?" Meditate on this question, pray to God for insight and courage and then writes your thoughts here.

Friday, April 3

Read I Peter 2:1-6; if you want to read the entire passage, you can read through verse 12. This passage offers a wonderful image of Christ building us into a Spiritual House, each of us a living stone. And Jesus is the cornerstone, a part of the foundation that supports this Spiritual House. Pastor Jack offered the analogy that we are to be a Spiritual House that welcomes all people regardless of their background and past transgressions and experiences. This imagery offers a moment of decision: Will we allow ourselves to be built into a Spiritual House? What does that even mean to you? As living stones, will we proclaim a message of praise, thanksgiving as well as a message of welcome, peace and wholeness through the salvation of Jesus the Christ? Pray for God's call to become clear to you as you contemplate this imagery of being a living stone built into a Spiritual House. Write your thoughts and reflections here.

Message Notes March 29, 2026

Christ Challenged! *The Stones That Would Shout Out!**

- I. Some biblical scholars have suggested that Jesus' procession into Jerusalem took place on _____.
 - A. If it was _____, it was a weekday, not the _____.
 - B. And if it was Sunday, it still wasn't a _____ day, a _____ day, like Sunday is for us.
- II. What was Jesus thinking as he went into Jerusalem on an _____ day?
 - A. There's a sense in which Mondays, as the first day of the work week, symbolize the _____ of _____ continuing.
 - B. Monday specifically, remind us of _____ and the same old weekly _____.
 - C. Why would Jesus, on a _____, make a gesture so _____ that the crowds went wild and praised God?
 1. Think about all the times that Jesus warned folks not to share what they've _____.
 2. Jesus didn't want his _____ and healing ministry to take precedent over his _____ of life abundant and _____.
 3. Jesus was waiting for just the _____ to challenge the religious and political _____ of his day.
 4. That apparent _____ became the _____.
 - D. Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem riding on the back of a donkey, a declaration that was reserved for _____ coming into a region or city in _____.
- III. Jesus was _____ the _____ to deal with him. Go _____ or go home. Jesus went _____.

*Luke 19:28-40

- A. Both the entry into the city and the brouhaha in the temple defy the Monday mindset: “No, you can’t carry on as _____!”
- B. John Dominic Crossan suggests that Jesus came to Jerusalem “to make twin _____, first against Roman imperial control over the _____ of _____ and, second, against Roman imperial control over the _____.”
- C. “In other words, against the governor _____ and his _____ - _____ Caiaphas.”

IV. The theme of this Lenten Series of Messages is *Christ _____!*

- A. True to that theme, some of Jesus’ enemies or challengers – the _____ – shows up to Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem.
 - 1. Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “_____, order your disciples to _____.”
 - 2. Jesus answered, “I tell you, if these were _____, the stones would _____ out.”
- B. I’m reminded of the _____ of First Peter, the second chapter.
 - 1. The Apostle Peter wrote, “Like _____ stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual _____, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”
 - 2. I’m encouraging you to choose a _____.
 - 3. Are you willing to oppose those who oppose _____?
 - 4. Can Jesus build us into a spiritual _____ where all are _____ and _____ and _____ because _____ loves them?

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, March 30

Read Luke 19:28-40. Take some time today to imagine what that scene must have looked like. Try to imagine the sight, the sounds and even the smells of that day. As you read this passage, what words captured your attention? What words jumped off the page or screen as you noticed them specifically? What meaning might those words have for you? Scan the passage again and imagine what Jesus was thinking. What do you imagine him feeling at that moment. Take time to reflect on these questions and write your reflections here.

Tuesday, March 31

Pastor Jack shared that some Biblical Scholars believe that Jesus may have entered the Jerusalem on a Monday rather than a Sunday. Within the context of that “triumphant entry,” either day would have been an ordinary weekday. Pastor Jack mentioned that Jesus entering Jerusalem on a weekday indicated the Monday mindset: “No, you can’t carry on as usual!” To follow Jesus literally, figuratively and spiritually means that life will be different! How is your life different because of your following Jesus the Christ? Write your ideas and thoughts here.

Wednesday, April 1

Read Luke 19:28-40. New Testament scholar John Dominic Crossan suggests that as Passover approached, Jesus came to Jerusalem intentionally “to make twin demonstrations, first against Roman imperial control over the City of Peace and, second, against Roman imperial control over the temple. ... In other words, against the (sub) governor Pilate and his high-priest Caiaphas.” Jesus’ procession into Jerusalem was definitely a demonstration that the Kingdom of God has arrived, which Jesus proclaimed from the very beginning of his earthly ministry. (Mark 1:15, Matthew 3:2, Luke 17:21) This was always a primary teaching of Jesus. What are your thoughts? Write them here.