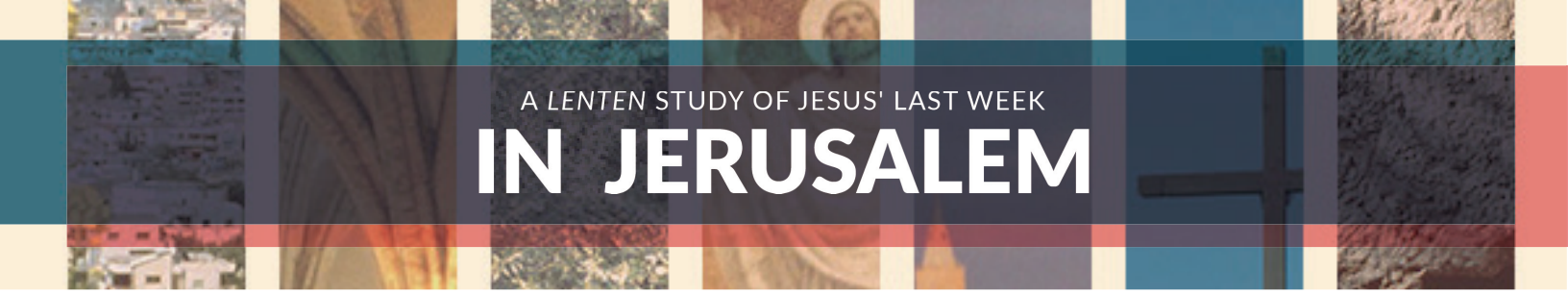

A *LENTEN* STUDY OF JESUS' LAST WEEK

IN JERUSALEM

THE CHEERS OF THE PEOPLE

DAY 1: TOWARD JERUSALEM (LUKE 19:28)

There are certain things that cause us dread . . . facing the dentist or heading into surgery. In fact, we tend to put those things off as long as possible because we know we will experience pain while giving up all personal control.

Read Luke 19:28. Jesus knew what awaited Him in Jerusalem. He knew He would suffer physically and emotionally. Maybe He even knew that He would even question God about whether His actions on the cross were necessary. He knew He would be rejected by many of those who had held Him up as the Messiah. And, based on prophecy, He knew He would be beaten and crucified. Yet, "He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem."

Can you relate to the feelings Jesus must have had as He moved toward Jerusalem? How can recognizing those feelings help you understand the depth of His love for you?

DAY 2: HUMAN AND DIVINE (LUKE 19:29-31)

One the most difficult things to accept about Jesus is that He was wholly human and wholly divine. We tend to focus more on one aspect of Jesus' identity than on the other, when in fact, the two cannot be separated. This duality is seen throughout the gospels.

Read Luke 19:29-31. Jesus made preparations for His entrance into Jerusalem. He needed a colt to ride on, so He gave His disciples instructions for where to go and what to do to secure one for Him. But how did He know the colt would be where He said? He had divine knowledge. Once again, Jesus demonstrated His humanity by using a colt, and His divinity by having the authority of knowing where the send the disciples.

Do you focus on one part of Jesus' duality more than the other? Why?

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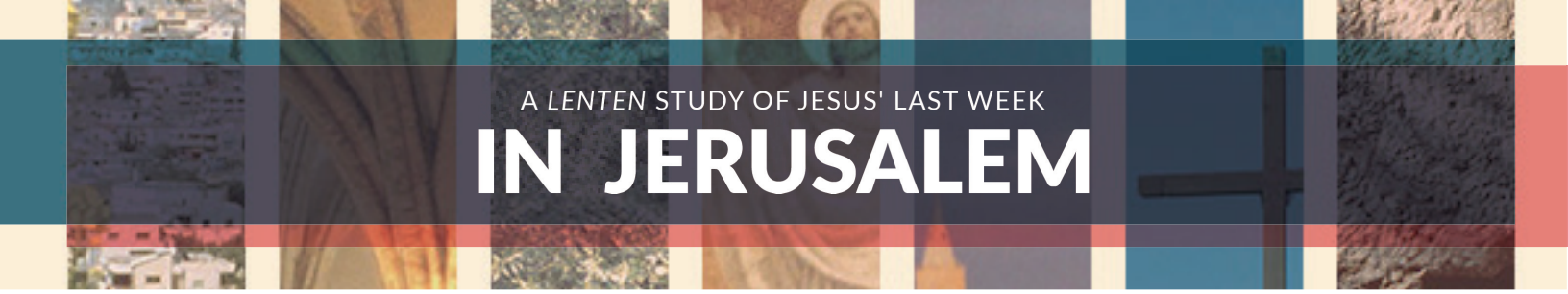

THE CHEERS OF THE PEOPLE

DAY 3: OBEYING WITHOUT QUESTION (LUKE 19:32-34)

Growing up, my favorite question was, "Why?" When I was told to do something, my usual response was, "Why?" It wasn't that I didn't want to obey; it was just that I wanted to know why I needed to do something. It's probably the question that led to parents saying, "Because I said so."

Read Luke 19:32-34. Jesus gave two of His disciples explicit instructions—go into the village, find a colt that had never been ridden before, and bring it to Him. And they obeyed . . . completely, immediately, and without question. Why didn't they want to know how Jesus knew the colt would be there? Why didn't they worry they might get in trouble for taking something that didn't belong to them? Why didn't they wonder how the colt would get back to its owner? Why did they obey without question?

There are times when God's instructions to us seem questionable. God says, "Go." We ask, "Where? Why? When? How long? How will we pay for it? What will happen next?" The disciples asked nothing. What an extraordinary picture of faith!

DAY 4: PRAISING GOD (LUKE 19:35-38)

Over the past twenty or thirty years, worshippers in traditional churches have become more involved in worship. They sing praise songs, raise their hands in worship, and call out praises for God. For many, watching this in worship is uncomfortable, because it's outside the way they've always worshipped before.

Read Luke 19:35-38. Possibly the disciples and the multitudes along the way had never worshipped the way they did that day. They were used to one way of worship . . . until they recognized Jesus as the One who had come to bring salvation to them . . . until they realized that Jesus came directly from God and belonged to God . . . until they saw His entrance as their King.

How could your understanding of worship have changed if you had been a part of the multitude that day?

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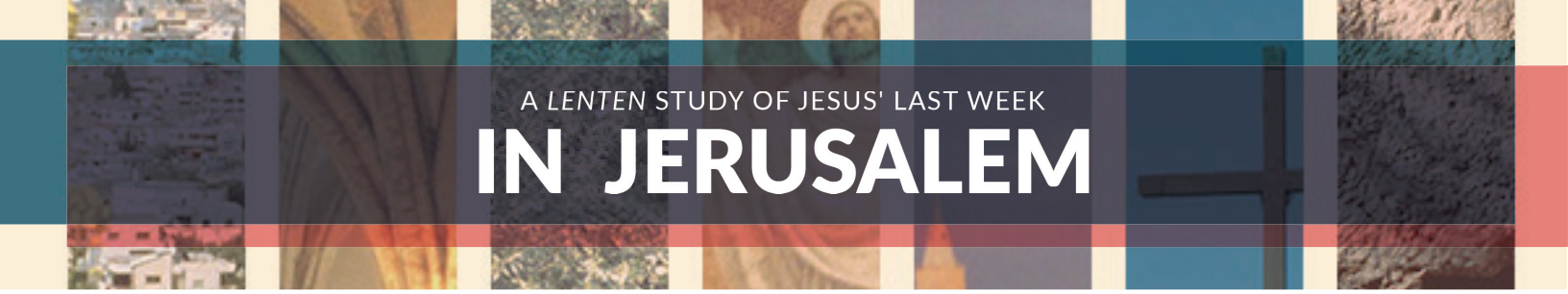

THE CHEERS OF THE PEOPLE

DAY 5: LIVING ROCKS (LUKE 19:39-40)

My husband collects rocks from the places we've been. He keeps the rocks in his office window, sitting on tiny slips of paper listing the location where each rock was collected. I don't know how often he actually looks at the rocks closely enough to read the labels, but from his desk chair, he can look at this collection and be reminded of the places we've been and how, in each of those places, we encountered God anew.

Read Luke 19:39-40. The Pharisees had always been a thorn in Jesus' side. They questioned His actions, His relationships, and His teachings. In these verses, they demonstrate what scared them the most. The people proclaimed Jesus as the One who came from God. When they asked Jesus to calm the crowds, Jesus responded that even the stones would cry out His identity.

We think of rocks as inanimate objects . . . having no life. Yet, rocks are part of God's creation. And all creation proclaims that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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