



A LENTEN STUDY OF JESUS' LAST WEEK
IN JERUSALEM

THE CHEERS OF THE PEOPLE

Biblical Passages: Luke 19:28–40

Many adults in the United States are die-hard sports fan. Whenever you watch an SEC college football game or an NFL playoff game, you will see screaming crowds of fans who are quick to cheer their teams and boo their opponents. Those cheers come easily, usually out of allegiance and loyalty to a team. But the same cheers can turn into boos when their beloved team disappoints them on the field.

How we see God determines our response not only to Him, but to all situations that we encounter. Read Luke 19:28–40. In this event in Jesus' last week on earth, people with many different viewpoints concerning Jesus were present in the crowds who watched His entry in Jerusalem. The Pharisees, for example, had it completely backward, and believed Jesus was an imposter because the Messiah had yet to come. The crowd responded to Jesus favorably, but incompletely. The passage describes their response as being tied to having witnessed or heard about His miracles. There was more to Christ than miracles. In any case, the people's view of Christ determined the response they gave Jesus as He rode into the city. Yet, in Jesus' entry, He showed the people who He was . . . He was "the King who comes in the name of the Lord" (v. 38).

All of us have to decide who Jesus is. Is He a miracle doer, a rebel leader, or the only Son of the Most High God who has come to redeem us all from the sin in our lives? Have you determined who Jesus is to you? Have your children and teenagers made that decision?

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. How did the people crowded along the street respond to Jesus? Why did they cheer for Him?
2. How did the Pharisees' respond? Why did they see Jesus as a threat?
3. How do you see Jesus? What picture does the Bible paint of who Jesus truly is? What, if anything, is different about your picture of Jesus from the Bible's picture?
4. What is an appropriate response to the idea of who Jesus truly is?