

THE CHEERS OF THE PEOPLE

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)

Use this outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with learners.

Encourage learners to take notes on their copies of the Learner Worksheet as you teach.

The underlined words in the Master Teacher Outline correspond to the blanks on the worksheet.

Introduction: We've gotten used to the cheering crowds and the electric atmosphere that accompany political candidates. Unfortunately, cheering crowds can quickly change their opinions. Many politicians have experienced negative media coverage and drops in their approval ratings. Jesus also experienced the cheering crowds. Unfortunately, the crowds did not recognize Jesus' true identity.

1. Jesus fulfilled messianic prophecy as He entered Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-34).

- During the journey to His final week in Jerusalem, Jesus prepared to fulfill messianic prophecies by moving across the Mount of Olives on a colt that had never been ridden (vv. 28–31).
- The owner of the colt accepted the disciples' explanation that the colt was for "the Lord" (vv. 32–34).

Illustration: College and professional sports teams work hard at establishing their image through symbols. Whatever symbols and accompanying mascots are chosen, they 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, you could have immediate identification with the person wearing it or driving the car. Because Jesus is God and Savior, He intentionally rode into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, both fulfilling prophecy and using symbolism to convey who He really was to the crowds who would greet Him.

2. Crowds gathered to greet Jesus with cheers and shouts of blessing (Luke 19:35-38).

- The people honored Jesus as king by placing their cloaks on the colt and on the ground (vv. 35–36).
- The disciples praised Jesus "as the King who comes in the name of the Lord" (vv. 37–38).

Illustration: Since 1886, New York City has hosted 200 "ticker tape" parades in honor of special achievements or celebrations. Notable athletes and sports teams, astronauts, war heroes, and heads of state have been honored in these parades. We love to celebrate and honor the achievements of legends and sports figures. Christ is to be honored for who He is as the one and only Son of God who is the "King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

3. Some who saw Jesus could not accept who Jesus was (Luke 19:39-40).

- The Pharisees were frightened by the crowd's outpouring of love and worship toward Jesus and wanted them to be silenced (v. 39).
- Jesus declared His divine authority by explaining that even silencing the people could not silence His creation (v. 40).

Illustration: The country of Israel is full of rocks. No matter where you might look, you'll see hills made of rocks, valleys covered in rocks, ancient roads made of rock, and ancient ruins in which the rock walls still stand. When Jesus proclaimed that even the rocks would cry out for Him, He drew His hearers attention to the fact that the rocks were everywhere around them. There was nowhere His hearers could go where they would not see rocks . . . all sizes and all shapes . . . everywhere.

Conclusion: By drawing attention to the rocks, Jesus proclaimed that all creation, everything that God had made, knew His identity and called out their praises to Him. Nothing on earth, and no one, can silence Jesus' identity as the Christ, the Son of the Living God, who came to save us.