

## THE CHEERS OF THE PEOPLE

(15-20 minutes, easy set-up)

*Use this outline and any of the corresponding activities to share the Biblical Truth with students.*

**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 began 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 fulfilled messianic prophecy as He entered Jerusalem (Luke 19:28–35).

**Biblical Background:** Jesus moved toward Jerusalem with great purpose (v. 28). In preparation for His entrance, Jesus sent two of His disciples to get a donkey's colt (vv. 29-30). Jesus instructed His disciples to respond to anyone who asked what they were doing by stating "the Lord" needed the colt (vv. 33-34). By identifying Himself as "Lord," Jesus was continuing to reveal to others His true identity—the Lord (or God) of Israel and fulfilled Old Testament prophecy concerning His life (Mt. 21:4–5). Since, in Israel's earlier days, the king had a donkey that only he would ride when he traveled throughout the land to visit the people during times of peace, Jesus was also demonstrating that He was King (see 1 Kgs. 1:33–35) (v. 35).

**Illustration:** College and professional sports teams work hard at establishing their image through symbols. Whether the teams choose lions or tigers or bears, bulldogs or gators or wildcats, or 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, you could have immediate identification with the person wearing it or driving the car.

**Application:** 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.

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### 2. Crowds gathered to greet Jesus with cheers and shouts of blessing (Luke 19:36–38).

**Biblical Background:** Because of what the people of Israel had known of Jesus for three years, many believed Him to be their long-awaited political Messiah and they gave Him a welcome fit for a king by spreading out their coats along His path as an act of honor (v. 36). John 12:12-18 states that 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. Jesus' disciples, the twelve closest to Him and the women and others who traveled with Him, praised Jesus "as the King who comes in the name of the Lord" (vv. 37–38).

**Illustration:** Since 1886, New York City has celebrated special achievements or celebrations. Since the first impromptu parade in celebration of the arrival of the Statue of Liberty, New York has hosted 200

“ticker tape” parades. Notable athletes and sports teams, astronauts, war heroes, and heads of state have been honored in these parades. The largest celebration took place after Japan surrendered at the end of World War II (<http://www.history.com/news/history-lists/7-things-you-may-not-know-about-ticker-tape-parades>).

**Application:** 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!”

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

**Biblical Background:** The Pharisees and chief priests had been plotting to kill Jesus since He raised Lazarus from the dead (Jn. 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 (v. 39). In response to their demand, Jesus stated that His identity as God incarnate could not be hidden because even the stones on the ground and all of creation proclaimed His identity (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.

**Application:** 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.

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**Conclusion:** From His birth, God proclaimed Jesus as His Son, the One who had come to redeem the world back to Him. In Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, as He moved closer and closer to the cross, the evidence of Jesus’ identity and mission were clearly visible to all who witnessed His arrival. They had to decide who Jesus would be to them, and we have to make that decision as well.