

Small Group / Personal reflection material

WRITTEN IN STONE SERIES: SHOUTING STONES

(28 March 2021)



1. Read Luke 19:28-48. What is the most striking encounter or image for you in this passage and why?

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ 'Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" say, "The Lord needs it."'

³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?'

³⁴ They replied, 'The Lord needs it.'

³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸ 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!'^[b]

'Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!'

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples!'

⁴⁰ 'I tell you,' he replied, 'if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.'

⁴¹ As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴² and said, 'If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you

in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognise the time of God's coming to you.'

⁴⁵ When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. ⁴⁶ 'It is written,' he said to them, "'My house will be a house of prayer"^[c]; but you have made it "a den of robbers".'

⁴⁷ Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. ⁴⁸ Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

2. The donkey owner simply let Jesus make use of his donkey with no guarantees about getting it back because he could see things for what they were and somehow understood the significance of this moment. Are you willing to live with an open heart and hands for the reality of Who Jesus is? How hard is it for you to be sacrificial?
3. The donkey-owner's role in the whole story reminds us that we all have something to offer in the grand purpose of God in the world, but we have to live alert to how God may want to use us, and be open to being used. How do you think we can do that?
4. St. Therese said: *Love proves itself by deeds, so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers, and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love. There is nothing lost that has been done in Christ, for Christ, through Christ.* What flowers of small (or big) sacrifices and acts of love can you scatter right now?
5. The crowd who praised Jesus on Palm Sunday and turned into an angry mob a few days later saw only what they wanted to see. They worshipped Jesus for who they wanted Him to be, rather than Who He is. Palm Sunday asks us to reflect each year on how we may be creating an idol of our own making who is not God at all. Do I worship God for Who He is (even the bits I don't understand and with which I'm wrestling and that make me uncomfortable), or do I worship on my own terms?
6. The religious leaders couldn't see what was right in front of them. What do you think Jesus meant when he said that if He silenced the crowd, the rocks would cry out?
7. We can either spend time investing in, building and extending God's Kingdom in the world, or our own. How do you think we can ensure we're focusing on the former?
8. Why do you think Jesus wept over Jerusalem?
9. How do you think we can ensure that we continually keep God's Kingdom as both our vision and our goal? (What we hope in and look for and also what we create and build)?
10. What are you taking out of this discussion into the rest of your week?