

April 9, 2017 Sermon Discussion Guide

Rev. Steve DeNeff

“An Other Hero”

Gathering

“Lord, may this Scripture guide our discussion as well as our lives. Give us hearts that weep for our city and may we have the wisdom to tear down walls that keep others out of Your temple.”

Jeremiah 23:5-8

⁵ “For the time is coming,”

says the Lord,

“when I will raise up a righteous descendant
from King David’s line.

He will be a King who rules with wisdom.

He will do what is just and right throughout the land.

⁶ And this will be his name:

‘The Lord Is Our Righteousness.’

In that day Judah will be saved,

and Israel will live in safety.

⁷ “In that day,” says the Lord, “when people are taking an oath, they will no longer say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who rescued the people of Israel from the land of Egypt.’ ⁸ Instead, they will say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the people of Israel back to their own land from the land of the north and from all the countries to which he had exiled them.’ Then they will live in their own land.”

Prayer

- For peace instead of violence in our world. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For the healing of children scarred by violence and war. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For hearts that weep for our city. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For the needs that we have shared together on a personal level,... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Summary of the Sermon

- As a group, recall the key points of Pastor Steve’s sermon.
- How did God stir you during the service? How were you challenged or changed?

Scripture

Take time to read aloud the Scripture preached. **Luke 19:28-42; 45-48**

²⁸ After telling this story, Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking ahead of his disciples. ²⁹ As he came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead. ³⁰ “Go into that village over there,” he told them. “As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks, ‘Why are you untying that colt?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

³² So they went and found the colt, just as Jesus had said. ³³ And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, “Why are you untying that colt?”

³⁴ And the disciples simply replied, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on.

³⁶ As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. ³⁷ When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

³⁸ “Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!”

³⁹ But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!"

⁴⁰ He replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!"

⁴¹ But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. ⁴² "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes."

⁴⁵ Then Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people selling animals for sacrifices. ⁴⁶ He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves."

⁴⁷ After that, he taught daily in the Temple, but the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the other leaders of the people began planning how to kill him. ⁴⁸ But they could think of nothing, because all the people hung on every word he said.

Major Sermon Discussion Points

- What do you think will happen when Jesus returns? What do you want to happen when Jesus returns?
- Pastor Steve talked about the three movements of the Palm Sunday story. How did each of these movements challenge or encourage you?
 - **Triumphal Entry** – The true king is entering the city – "God save us!"
 - **The Kidron Valley** – Does your vision of the 2nd coming include a king who weeps over the city? Do we weep with Him? When was the last time you felt a responsibility for your city and wept for it?
 - **Cleansing the Temple** – The city may be stuck because the Temple is in disarray. Jesus shows sympathy for the city but judges the Temple. What is your relationship to the church currently?

Next Steps/Moving Forward

- How will this adjust your view of the 2nd coming of Christ?
- This week, pray for your city and ask God to give you a heart that weeps for the wrongs. How will you begin to take responsibility for your city?
- How deeply are you connected to the church? Are you judging it from the outside or are you willing to love the church enough to commit to her and influence change from within?

Closing Prayer

Pray as you feel led as a group following your discussion or pray the following prayer individually or together:

(from Psalm 118)

²⁵ Please, Lord, please save us.

Please, Lord, please give us success.

²⁶ Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

²⁷ The Lord is God, shining upon us.

Take the sacrifice and bind it with cords on the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you!

You are my God, and I will exalt you!

²⁹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

His faithful love endures forever.

Amen.