

Midweek Study Lesson Questions 04/01/2026

Sunday March 29, 2026

He Entered Triumphantly

Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:9-10; John 12:12-13

Series: Against All Odds, Sermon 5

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I. Getting to Know “Yourself”

Reflection: The peace Jesus brings is one the world cannot give or take away. How does experiencing this feel to you?

Explain the following points from Sunday’s sermon.

- 1. The Friday before Good Friday: In Jericho, Zacchaeus became a Jesus-follower.**

- 2. Mary took a pound of perfume, pure and expensive nard, anointed Jesus’s feet, and wiped his feet with her hair.**

- 3. They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!' The King of Israel!"**

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Observation Question

In Luke 19:9-10, what reason does Jesus give for why salvation has come to Zacchaeus's house, and what does this reveal about His mission?

Interpretation Question

The sermon mentioned that some hardships are used by God as "instruments to correct and prepare." How does this perspective change the way a believer should interpret and respond to personal trials and suffering?

Application Question

Triumph sometimes means walking into difficulty with praise. What would it look like practically to enter it this week with a spirit of thankfulness rather than fear?

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Luke 19:5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

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John 12:3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. **4** But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, who would betray Him, said, **5** "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?":**6** This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. **7** But Jesus said, "**Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.**" NKJV

Psalm 118:25 Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. NKJV

John 11:27 She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." NKJV

Key Takeaways

- 1. Grace arrives without earning it.** Grace stands as an unmerited gift, extended to the unworthy and unable to be purchased or performed into existence. That reality should dissolve self-righteousness and fuel gratitude that animates obedience, not complacency. When grace is truly grasped, it compels radical outreach to those assumed beyond hope and invites honest repentance.
- 2. Salvation exceeds political expectations.** The crowd's cries for an earthly deliverer reveal a common spiritual blindness: conflating national power with spiritual redemption. True salvation targets the human heart and its bondage, not empire or policy. Reorienting hope toward soul-level restoration changes how victory, peace, and justice are pursued.
- 3. Worship demands costly devotion.** Mary's alabaster box models worship that costs reputation, resources, and comfort; such devotion prioritizes presence with Christ over public approval or pragmatic calculation. Costly worship exposes inner loyalty and prepares anointing for the days of burial and resurrection alike. When worship chooses love before utility, it resists critics and aligns with God's timing.
- 4. Face storms with triumphant faith.** Triumph does not always mean escape from suffering; it sometimes means entering difficulty with praise, eyes fixed on God's purpose rather than the immediate pain. Faith that knows its help comes from the Lord endures hard strikes, rises again, and wields the authority given in resurrection. Persistent, thankful endurance cultivates spiritual keys that unlock deliverance and growth.