

SMALL GROUP LESSON

MARCH 25, 2018

WALKING INTO THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

LUKE 19:29-41 AND PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

During the Middle Ages pilgrimages to sacred places were quite popular. In fact, one such pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral became the inspiration for Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, a collection of stories told by various pilgrims on their way to this sacred place. A vestige of that practice continues to this very day when people sign on for a trip to the Holy Land to visit the places "where Jesus walked." The same was true in Jesus' day. Thousands upon thousands of Jews made annual pilgrimages to Jerusalem, especially for the Feast of Passover. In fact, some of them may have been a part of the enthusiastic crowds who welcomed Jesus as He entered the city on Palm Sunday. So how about you and me? Should we go on a pilgrimage and if so should we be walking "in" or "into" the footsteps of Jesus? With that in mind, let's take a look at these questions.

1. Read Luke 19:29-41. Why do you think the people of Jerusalem gave Jesus such a tumultuous welcome as He entered the city? What were they hoping would happen? Why were the religious authorities so disturbed? Finally, and most importantly of all, why did Jesus allow this joyous celebration to take place? In the past He had refrained from becoming involved in these kinds of events. Why now had He allowed, even planned to become a part of something that could easily be interpreted as a declaration of kingship (Read 1 Kings 1:28-40 about Solomon's coronation and the prophetic promise in Zechariah 9:9)?
2. Is it enough to simply walk "in the footsteps" of Jesus as opposed to walking "into" the footsteps of Jesus? How do these two prepositions change the meaning of what is required of a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ?
3. In this week's sermon, the pastor lists four ways in which we can walk "into" the footsteps of Jesus based upon Philippians 2:5-11. This is a key passage of Scripture in the New Testament. Some scholars believe it is an early hymn of the church, describing the life and ministry of Christ. What are these four steps and how do we put them into practice as we live out our lives as God's people?