



## WEEK 6: ARRIVING KING

Welcome to the week six small group guide for the "Foretold: Jesus throughout the Bible" series. As we've worked through this series, we hope that each week's discussion has been an opportunity for you and your group to dig deeper into each weekend's sermon.

If you were unable to watch the sermon last weekend, please check it out at <https://www.firstdecatur.org/sermons/>



### START

As you start your group time today, please begin by answering the questions below.

- ▶ Pastor Wayne started this week by talking about the importance of blue Band-Aids. Primarily they are used in the food industry to make sure nothing gross ends up in a restaurant or grocery store. Yet, we know that sometimes strange things end up in food. To get the conversation rolling, please share a story with your small group about something odd you have found in food. If you don't feel comfortable sharing, please feel free to share a fun fact about yourself instead.
- ▶ One of this series' purposes has been to help us prepare our hearts for the Easter season. How have the conversations of the past weeks helped you consider Jesus in a new or different way?

Now that you are warmed up let's dive in.



### READ MATTHEW 21:1-11

For many of us, this is a familiar passage that we read each year on the weekend before Easter. However, while it is familiar, it describes a strange event that is complicated for us to understand with our culture in mind. As Pastor Wayne said, a lot is going on in this passage that we might not understand, but Matthew's audience certainly would have understood.

First, the prophet Zechariah prophesied that Jesus would come humbly on a donkey. As Pastor Wayne mentioned, conquering kings would have ridden in on a horse. Horses symbolized warfare, but Jesus rode a donkey to clearly communicate that he came in peace. Additionally, riding a donkey symbolized that the citizens were unworthy of the donkey's rider. As Pastor Wayne said, Jesus came stating the

citizens of Jerusalem were unworthy in some fashion. In fact, they were. Like us, as we read in the New Testament, they were sinners. Yet, here comes Jesus riding in a humble state, riding a donkey in peace, coming to an unworthy people to die and redeem them. By an act of divine grace, people who accept Jesus' work on the cross move from their own unworthiness to a place of Jesus' worthiness being applied to their very souls.

Pastor Wayne also talked about the gate that Jesus rode through. In Jewish tradition, this is the gate, in the days ahead, through which the conquering Messiah will enter Jerusalem. This is why throughout history, some have worked so hard to keep this gate closed. With all of this in mind, [read Revelation 19:11-14](#) together as a group.

- ▶ As you think about the scene that Matthew described and all that event would have meant to Matthew's audience, what sticks out to you the most? What does that mean for you today?
- ▶ Why is Jesus' humility so important? Why is the unworthiness of the people so important? How do these two ideas work together?
- ▶ Compare the scene in Matthew 21 with the scene in Revelation 19. What is your biggest takeaway as you think about this comparison? How does each of these passages impact your understanding of Jesus and what he means to you?

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Pastor Wayne said:

- Jesus arriving on a donkey symbolizing peace and the unworthy nature of the city. He dies, executed for sins he didn't commit.
- We are unworthy. But through his actions, worthiness is ascribed to the name of each Christian believer.
- And the day is coming when Jesus will again come down the Mount of Olives, this time on a horse symbolizing a victory over death and sin and the worthiness of all who follow him.

So...

- if you're a follower of Jesus,
- if you are relying on his work on the cross,
- if you are expecting your unworthiness to be replaced by his worthiness,
- if you are expecting his victory over death and sin,
- if you're planning to call on his name at the Eastern Gate of Mercy, come the Great Judgement,
- if you carry his name with an intent to carry for eternity...

**Can people see you and recognize you – not like a sore thumb, but as a healing bandage for our world?**

- ▶ As you read through these final thoughts, what word or phrase jumped out to you? Why do you think that is?
- ▶ Looking specifically at that final question, how do others see you as a healing bandage in our world? What could you do to make this a higher priority in your life?
- ▶ Finally, what is your most significant takeaway from this Foretold series?