

## Small Group Guide THE KING IS COMING

*The Church at Brook Hills*

*Dr. David Platt*

*May 20, 2012*

*Matthew 21:1–22*

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to train your group into potential disciple-makers and lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word with His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

### **Relate . . .**

*Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:*

*Welcome*—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

*Review*—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. (The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time.) Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to review the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

*Prayer*—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

### **Reflect . . .**

*Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications for our lives. (As a training tool, leaders might want to have various members summarize the teachings in their own words each week sharing how they think the Scripture applied to the original hearers and how the principles apply to us today.)*

## THE KING IS COMING Matthew 21:1-22

### Attributes of the King...

- He is the divine King.
- He is the prophesied King.
- He is the righteous King.
- He is the Savior King.
- He is the gentle King.
- He is the peaceful King.
- He is the global King.
- He is the Messianic King.
- He is the compassionate King.
- He is the prophetic King.
- He is the holy King.
- He is the authoritative King.

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- He has authority over the temple.
- He has authority over disease.
- He has authority over all people.
- He has authority over all creation.
- He is the coming King.
  - He came the first time humbly riding on a colt...
    - To rescue sinners.
    - To be crucified as King.
  - He will come the second time sovereignly reigning on a horse...
    - To rule sinners.
    - To be crowned as King.

#### Application to our Lives...

- Let us give Him praise.
  - Gladly surrender to this King today.
- Let us prioritize prayer.
  - Continually seek this King every day.
- Let us bear fruit in our lives.
  - This King desires—and deserves—more than hollow worship and hypocritical religion.
- Let us have faith as His church.
  - This King can—and will—do the impossible when we ask.

#### Message Summary

*Matthew 21 depicts the coming of Jesus into Jerusalem just days before His crucifixion and resurrection. The Galileans who were with Him shout and praise Him as the Messiah. But soon Jesus confronts the city's religious leaders, revealing His authority over the temple, disease, all people, and all creation. The religious leaders, who do not see that Jesus is the incarnate Son of God, are provoked enough to orchestrate His death. Numerous Old Testament passages find their fulfillment in these verses of Matthew, particularly Zechariah 9.*

*Jesus is portrayed as the divine King of Kings. He is the prophesied, righteous, Savior, gentle, peaceful, global, messianic, compassionate, prophetic, holy, and authoritative King. He came once in meekness to be crucified as the rescue for sinners. He will come again in power to rule sinners and to be crowned as King.*

*Today is the day of salvation. Let us turn to the King and give Him praise. He calls us to prioritize prayer, bear fruit in our lives, and have faith as His church. He can—and will—do the impossible when we ask.*

#### Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help review the application of God's Word to our Head (What does God want me to know?), to our Heart (What does God want me to desire/value?), and to our Hands (What does God want me to do?).

- Read Matthew 21:1–11 and Zechariah 9:9–10. Zechariah wrote his prophecy about 500 years before the events recorded in the Book of Matthew. How does this unambiguous fulfillment of prophecy affirm the divinity of Jesus Christ? How does it encourage your faith?

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- How does Jesus' humble entrance into Jerusalem square with the rest of Jesus' teaching and action in Matthew's Gospel? (Look at Matthew chapters 18–20 in particular.) How does this attribute of Jesus challenge you as a believer being molded into His image?
- What further attributes of Jesus' kingship are on display in Zechariah 9? Why is the righteousness of Jesus Christ important to our salvation? How does the timing of His coming to Jerusalem (at Passover) indicate his role as Savior King?
- Continue looking at Zechariah. Some of the Jewish people at the time of Jesus' sojourn on earth seem to have expected the Messiah to bring Israel a political/military peace. To whom did Jesus bring peace? What kind of peace? How is the peace of Jesus better than political/military peace? Do you think we, as believers, sometimes want God to solve our political and military problems more than our and our world's spiritual problems? Why? How can our attitudes be changed?
- What is the extent of the Messiah's reign? Is there room today for kingdom expansion? Why do you think some people groups still have not heard of the peace of Christ 2,000 years later? Whose responsibility is it to carry the good news to the world?
- Read Luke 19:41–44. Jesus knew He soon would be crucified in Jerusalem. Rather than curse the people, He weeps for them. Are we as Christ followers loving our city and/or our enemies or despising them? Are we weeping for them, that they would know the peace of Christ? Why or why not? What heart attitudes need to change?
- What do you think prevented some people in Jerusalem from seeing Jesus as Messiah? What blinds people to the truth today?
- Read Malachi 3:1–4, Jeremiah 7:10–11, Isaiah 56:7, and Matthew 21:12–13. In the events at the temple, how does Jesus assert Himself as the perfect prophet, priest, and king? Does God treat sin lightly? Why would we? Have we set up any barriers or obstacles that prevent the nations from freely worshipping Christ? Have we stolen from God or cheated others in any way, specifically as regards our church body and resources?
- Are we making prayer a priority in the church, in our homes, in our personal lives? How can we grow in this discipline and relationship?
- Are you shocked by the contrast in verse 14 from verses 12–13? How do these three verses together show a fuller picture of the attributes of Christ? How are you encouraged by Jesus' power over disease?
- Read Psalm 8:1–2 and Matthew 21:15–17. Jesus accepts the praises of the children in the temple. If He were not God, what sin would He be guilty of? How does this event counter the thinking of those who say Jesus was just a good teacher? What is the reach of Jesus' authority?
- Jesus has authority over all creation. Read Matthew 21:18–22. Why did Jesus curse the fig tree? What was He actually condemning?
- In a "Christianized" culture like North America, is it easy for men and women to be deceived into hypocritical religion and hollow worship? Why? What is the remedy? Do you think true believers can fall into hypocrisy and shallow worship? Why or why not? How can we bear God-honoring fruit in our lives? What does that fruit look like?
- Read Revelation 19:11–16. How will Jesus' Second Coming be different from His first? What does this mean for the urgency of trusting Him in full surrender? For the sharing of the gospel and making disciples in our neighborhoods, our country, our world?
- What can our church (our small group) ask Jesus in faith to do for our good and the glory of God among the nations?

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### Respond . . .

Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of today's study. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from this study?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from this study, what does God want you to desire/value?
- How do your values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this study?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?
- What is going to be the most difficult aspect of this study to personally apply?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength to apply these truths, for personal needs, for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel, and for our weekly prayer focus as a church.

### Weekly Prayer Focus ...

- **Pray for Our Lives:** *This week we come to Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem where He once again asserts His authority. This is Jesus' first and last visit to Jerusalem in Matthew's account. Jesus enters Jerusalem in abject humility on a lowly donkey rather than on a warhorse, staging a prophetic and symbolic event to proclaim His messianic intentions. This has been the goal in view, and the story reaches its climax as the Messiah approaches and enters the temple that was the focus of the earthly worship of the one true God. Jesus' arrival is deliberately dramatic to draw attention to and provoke people to think about His messianic claim. Pray that we might celebrate Jesus' first coming even as we look to His second. Pray that we would celebrate the King as vibrantly as Jerusalem first did. Pray that even now, those in Jerusalem would look to the risen King for the forgiveness of their sins.*
- **Pray for Our City:** *This week we are praying for North Park Baptist, Bill Wilks, pastor. We are also praying for Ready Day One, an initiative to prepare students in Birmingham's 14 public housing communities to be ready for school on day one by removing the obstacles that prevent that being the case for impoverished families. Visit [brookhills.org/readydayone](http://brookhills.org/readydayone) for more information.*
- **Pray for Our World:** *This week we are praying for our short-term team serving in Thailand. We are also praying for Brook Hills long-term missionaries, the Brock family serving in Ecuador. This Sunday we have the privilege of commissioning them as they prepare to move to Quito, Ecuador. The Brocks will be joining another family to serve at the Houses of Happiness orphanage. There they will be part of developing a camp ministry at the orphanage as well as participating in church planting in the surrounding areas.*