



Return of the King | Conrad Bess | 3.28.21  
Weekly Study

S T A R T

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

**Who is one of your heroes? Why do they mean so much to you?**

S H A R E

Welcome back to Group! This week, to get us ready for Easter, Conrad gave a message about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Before we dive into the message, take some time to check in with your Group by answering these questions.

**What is one word you would use to describe how you are currently feeling? Why did you pick that word?**

**What was the most challenging part of your week?**

**What was the highlight of your week?**

**What is one thing on your mind that is keeping you from being present in this moment?**

G R O W

**Read 1 Samuel 13:8-14**

**What was your biggest takeaway from the relationship series? Why?**

## **What is your favorite part about Easter week? Why?**

1 Samuel is the story of Israel learning how to be their own nation. In the book, the people decide they no longer trust God to be their leader and decide they want a human King to lead them. In the passage you just read, you saw the negative impact this had on the nation. Saul was the first king, and although he had a few redemptive motives, he made a lot of mistakes and let a lot of people away from God.

This passage is the perfect example of what happens when we start to trust humans instead of God. Slowly but surely, we begin to deviate from the path God originally placed us on. Once that happens, it doesn't take long for things to fall apart. As Conrad reminded us this week, "The kingdom of human creation enthrones a king that is far more representative of a villainous oppressor than of a victorious savior."

This pattern is all throughout the Old Testament. Once Israel turns away from God, things start to fall apart until they are finally ready to repent and put God back in first place in their lives.

**Have you ever found yourself trusting in created things rather than the Creator? If we're honest, we'd all probably answer yes to that question. But take some time to tell your Group about it. It's really helpful to process it out loud together.**

M O V E

**Read Zechariah 9:9-12**

**What is the significance of this passage?**

**What do you feel like God is trying to teach you this Easter week? Why?**

The passage you just read is a prophecy about Jesus, written hundreds of years before he was even born. But 2,000 years ago, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. When we think of grand entrances, we usually think of elaborate, over-the-top celebrations. But when the Savior of the world made his triumphant entry, he did so on a donkey.

**What does that teach us about Jesus?**

**What is one tangible way you can try to be more like Jesus this week?**

One of the many reasons we can trust Jesus is because he is the perfect picture of humility. He saved the world, but he did it by serving. Take a few minutes with your Group to meditate on each of these verses from Matthew's Gospel:

*"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" – Matthew 20:26*

*"Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it" – Matthew 10:39*

*"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen" – Matthew 20:16*

**Would you consider yourself a humble person? That may feel like a trick question because saying "yes" doesn't feel like a very humble thing to say. But put that fear aside for a second and just try to answer it honestly.**

**What is one practical way you can practice walking in humility this week?**

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

*Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

Matthew 20:28

