



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

“The Lord Has Need of It”

Preached by Daniel Grothe

March 29, 2026

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

Pastor Daniel delivered a Palm Sunday sermon from Matthew 21, focusing on Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. He emphasized that despite God's omnipotence, Jesus actively seeks partnership with humanity in His saving work, as demonstrated when He told His disciples 'the Lord has need of them,' regarding the donkey and colt. Pastor Daniel highlighted how Jesus chose to enter Jerusalem humbly on a donkey rather than as a conquering warrior, showing His gentle, patient approach to salvation. He explained that Jesus is 'the prophet from Nazareth' - with Nazareth meaning 'branch' or 'shoot' - indicating that wherever Jesus goes, new life springs up. The sermon concluded with the powerful testimony of John Newton, the former slave trader who wrote 'Amazing Grace' after his transformation through Christ, illustrating how Jesus can completely transform anyone's life.

Key Passages

- Matthew 21:1-11
- Zechariah 9:9
- Luke 8:1-3

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own
Heavenly Father, as we gather together today to study Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us. Help us to set aside our distractions and preconceptions, and make us receptive to the work of Your Holy Spirit in our lives. Lord, we pray that through our discussion today, You would draw us closer to You and to one another. Speak to us through Your Word and through each other. We surrender this time to You and ask for Your blessing upon our conversation. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

If you could choose any mode of transportation to make a grand entrance somewhere important, what would you choose and why?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.

1. Why do you think Jesus specifically chose to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey rather than a horse or other impressive mode of transportation?
2. The sermon mentioned that the same crowd shouting 'Hosanna' on Sunday would shout 'Crucify Him' 120 hours later. What does this teach us about building our lives on the approval of others?
3. Pastor Daniel emphasized that 'the Lord has need of them' when referring to the donkey and colt. How does it change your perspective to know that God wants to partner with you in His work?
4. What are some practical ways that God might have 'need' of your gifts, resources, or abilities in His kingdom work today?
5. The name Nazareth means 'branch' or 'shoot,' symbolizing new life. Can you share about a time when you experienced 'new life' springing up in an area of your life through Jesus?
6. How does Jesus's gentle, patient approach to salvation differ from the world's approach to power and change?
7. The sermon shared the transformation story of John Newton, who went from slave trader to writing 'Amazing Grace.' What does this tell us about God's ability to transform anyone?

8. In what areas of your life do you need to experience the 'long game' of Jesus's gentle transformation rather than expecting immediate change?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

This week, look for specific opportunities where 'the Lord has need' of you. Whether it's offering hospitality, using your resources to help someone, or simply being present for a friend in need, actively seek ways to partner with God in His work of bringing salvation and new life to others. Keep a journal of these moments and how you responded.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before dismissing.

- God chooses to partner with humanity in His saving work rather than acting alone, as demonstrated by Jesus saying 'the Lord has need of them'
- Jesus's humble entry on a donkey shows His gentle, patient approach to salvation rather than worldly displays of power

- Don't build your life on the approval of crowds because they are fickle, but build on God who is faithful
- Jesus is 'the prophet from Nazareth' who brings new life wherever He goes, transforming people from the inside out
- No matter how broken or lost someone may be, Jesus specializes in complete transformation, as shown in John Newton's story

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord God, thank You for choosing to enter our lives with gentleness and humility rather than force. We are amazed that You, the King of Kings, would have need of us and desire to partner with us in Your work. Help us to be faithful servants who are ready to respond when You say 'the Lord has need.' Transform us from the inside out, just as You did with Zacchaeus, Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John Newton. May new life spring up in us and through us wherever we go. We surrender our lives to You and ask that You would use us for Your glory. In Your precious name we pray, **Amen.**