



Twenty-Four Seven – Week 1 – I’m Back, Jerusalem  
Spiritual Formation Guide

**We hope you’ll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday’s service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at [info@wschurch.org](mailto:info@wschurch.org).**

**Scripture:**

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside privately and told them what was going to happen to him. “Listen,” he said, “we’re going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die. Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day he will be raised from the dead.”

Matthew 20:17-19

As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. “Go into the village over there,” he said. “As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will immediately let you take them.”

This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said, “Tell the people of Jerusalem, ‘Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey — riding on a donkey’s colt.’”

Matthew 21:1-5

Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself.

1 Corinthians 6:19

**Reflection Questions:**

- If you knew you had one week to live, what is one thing you’d make sure you’d do?
- Read Matthew 20:17-19 out loud. What do you notice about Jesus?
- Then, read Matthew 21:1-5.
- Eddie shared that Jesus’ actions in this story were effectively saying to people, “Crown me or kill me.” Jesus knows what is ahead for him, and steps into this pivotal week. How does this challenge you today?

- What stands out to you about this moment in Jesus' story? Is there a detail or theme that resonates with you?
- Eddie shared this: "This moment is about Jesus' identity and authority as the Ultimate King. I don't believe this theme could be any more relevant to us. Everyone in our world is trying to answer the question, "Who is in charge?" Are we in charge of our lives? Are the politicians and bureaucrats in charge of our lives? Or, is God in charge of our lives? Well, this passage reveals two answers to those questions that are equally important. The first answer is that JESUS IS KING. Jesus is IN CHARGE and he is the authority over our lives. But the second answer is that JESUS IS NOT THE KIND OF KING WE EXPECT. And if you only embrace one of these truths, you will fall out of step with Jesus." What is your reaction to this?
- How do you feel about having a king? Do you feel able to call Jesus your King today? What would have to be true to call him that?
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:19. How does this challenge how you think about your life?
- Another theme Eddie mentioned from this story is this: "Jesus will not force himself into the boxes we construct for him." How has Jesus surprised you? How does he challenge you?
- What is stopping you from letting Jesus have his way with your life? Take a moment to honestly reflect and write down your response – then share it as you're willing.
- Look over the prayer practices listed below. Circle one that you want to practice this week.

### Invitations to Practice:

- **Prayer Practices**

Eddie offered a few suggestions of ways to pray this week in response to this story.

- **Kneeling Prayer -**

Find a place to get on your knees before God. What would happen if you told Jesus you are weary of pretending to be the king or queen of your life? How would your life change if you admitted how bad you are at ruling your own words, your own thoughts, your own actions? What would happen if you looked at the man riding a donkey, and said, "*Hosanna! Save me!*" What would happen if you invited Jesus into the temple of your life and said, "Jesus, this is your house now. Clear out anything that offends you. Banish anything that obscures God or exploits others. Take over and reign as king."

- **2 Specific Prayers:**

- Jesus, help me to desire the best things you can give me.
- Jesus, help me give you the one thing you desire most – for me to trust you and follow you.

- **Lent (Spring) Season Reflection -**

In the weeks between now and Easter, as Christ-followers, we remember Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness and his journey toward the cross. Take a moment to use the free [PDF linked here](#) to prayerfully consider what God might be inviting you to do over the next several weeks. Let's make room to walk with Jesus intentionally in this season.