

Grace Guide



MARCH 23-29

“Between Shouting and Silence”

MONDAY
3/23

GENESIS 22:1-18

Abraham’s journey up the mountain is marked not by shouting, but by silence, by a quiet obedience in the face of confusion, fear, and unimaginable cost. There are no crowds cheering him on, no clear explanation from God, only a promise he must trust and a path he must walk. In that silence, Abraham demonstrates a faith that holds onto God’s character even when God’s actions seem unclear. This moment lives “in between”... between promise and fulfillment, between command and understanding, between hope and assurance. Like Abraham, we often find ourselves walking through seasons where God seems quiet, where the outcome is hidden, and where faith means continuing forward without certainty. Yet it is precisely in these silent places that God provides, revealing that he has been at work all along.

1. When have you experienced a season where following God required quiet trust rather than clear answers?
2. What can make it difficult for you to remain obedient when God’s direction doesn’t make sense?

TUESDAY
3/24

ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

The prophet paints a picture of a king arriving not with power and spectacle, but with humility, riding on a donkey. This is a vision that sits somewhere between expectation and reality. The people longed for a triumphant ruler who would overthrow their enemies, yet God promised a different kind of king, one who would bring peace, not through force, but through gentleness. The shouting would come later, when Jesus entered Jerusalem, but this prophecy reminds us that the true nature of God's work often contradicts our assumptions. We live in that same tension: we want bold, unmistakable displays of power, while God often moves in quiet, unexpected ways. The challenge is to recognize and receive the kind of king God actually sends, not the one we would prefer.

1. In what ways do you find yourself expecting God to act, or at least longing for God to act, in more obvious or dramatic ways?
2. What does Jesus riding in on a donkey suggest to you about where true power and authority lie and what does that mean to you?

WEDNESDAY
3/25

MATTHEW 21:1-11 **JOHN 12:12-19**

Today we read two of the parallel readings for our weekend Scripture. The crowds erupt in shouting as Jesus enters Jerusalem, waving branches, laying down cloaks, and crying out "Hosanna!" It is a moment filled with energy, hope, and expectation. Yet even here, in the noise of celebration, there is a deeper tension. Many in the crowd misunderstand who Jesus is and what he has come to do. Their shouts are real, but they are also fleeting. The same voices that cry out in praise will soon fall silent, and some will later shout again, but this time they will cry out, "Crucify him!" This moment sits squarely between shouting and silence, between recognition and misunderstanding. It invites us to examine our own response to Jesus. Are we simply caught up in the moment, or are we truly following him for who he is? True discipleship goes beyond loud praise. True discipleship remains steady even when the excitement fades and the path leads toward the cross.

1. How do you respond when your faith becomes quieter, when things become more difficult, or God's presence is less visible?
2. In what ways might your expectations of Jesus differ from who he actually reveals himself to be

THURSDAY
3/26

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

The apostle Paul calls us to a life shaped by humility, pointing to Jesus as the ultimate example, as one who did not cling to status or power, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant and becoming obedient even to the point of death on a cross. This passage moves from the quiet descent of Jesus into humility to the ultimate exaltation where every knee bows and every tongue confesses. It holds together both silence and shouting: the silence of self-giving love and the future chorus of universal praise. We live in that in-between space, called to embody the humility of Christ now while trusting that God will bring about what we cannot yet see. Following Jesus means choosing the quiet road of selflessness in a world that rewards being seen, heard, and elevated.

1. What does it look like in your daily life to “have the same mind” as Christ?
2. In what ways can you practice Christlike humility in your relationships this week?

FRIDAY
3/27

PSALM 118

This psalm is filled with the language of celebration: thanksgiving, rejoicing, and the repeated refrain of God’s enduring love. It is a psalm that would have been on the lips of the crowd as they shouted “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” during Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. Yet even within its joy, there is a story of distress, struggle, and deliverance. The psalmist speaks of being surrounded, pressed, and in need of rescue before arriving at praise. This reminds us that shouting often grows out of what has come before... and what will come after. The same voices that cry out in joy do so from lives that know hardship, and sometimes do not yet understand the full story. We live in that space too, grateful for what God has done, hopeful for what hGod will do, but not always seeing the whole picture. Still, we are invited to trust that “the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”

1. What does it mean for you to say, “his steadfast love endures forever,” in light of anything you might be struggling with now?
2. How do you understand Jesus being “the stone that the builders rejected” and what does that mean for you?

**SATURDAY/
SUNDAY
3/28-29**

LUKE 19:28-41

Jesus enters Jerusalem to the sound of joyful shouting as the crowds praise God for all they have seen and all they hope for. Yet in the midst of this celebration, a striking contrast emerges. The Pharisees urge Jesus to silence the crowd, but he responds that if the people were quiet, even the stones would cry out. And then, as the city comes into view, Jesus weeps. Here, shouting and silence meet – praise rising from the crowd while sorrow fills the heart of Jesus. He sees what others do not: the coming rejection, the missed understanding, the cost of peace that will not be received by so many. This moment invites us to consider not just whether we praise Jesus, but whether we truly recognize him and the peace he brings. It calls us to a deeper awareness, one that holds both joy and honesty, celebration and repentance, as we follow him.

1. What does it mean that Jesus is worthy of praise regardless of human response?

2. Are there any places that you see a gap between outward faith and inward reality in your own life? How can you allow God to close that gap?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

**“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes..”**

(Psalm 118:22-23)