

**ULC Sermon Study Resource**  
**Teach Us to Pray: Prayer as Praise**  
**Pastor Marcus Lane**  
**April 5, 2020 (Palm Sunday)**

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** What have you tried recently that you told all your friends about? It could be a product, recipe, TV show, book, etc.

**Reading:** Luke 19:28-40

**Outline:**

- I. We praise God through our obedience (v28-35).
  - a. Prayer is active expression of our trust in God *before* we see the results.
  - b. Hopeful obedience flows from remembering God's faithfulness in the past and trusting that he will be faithful in the present.  
**Q: Are we called to just blindly obey God?**
- II. Praise is our destiny (v36-40).
  - a. The very thing we are designed to do is praise God. It is the future He has in store for us.
  - b. We all end up praising something; it is inevitable.  
**Q: What did the Jews expect of a Messiah? Did Jesus fit that description?**
- III. Praise demands repentance (v45-46).
  - a. Jesus doesn't leave us alone; he disrupts the sickness in us and takes it on himself.
  - b. On the cross, Jesus cleanses the temples of our bodies and sets us free to be houses of prayer and praise.  
**Q: Why does Jesus cleanse the temple?**

**Reflection/Application Questions:**

- 1) When have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?
- 2) What is God asking of you that you don't yet understand?
- 3) What things do you find yourself praising instead of God?
- 4) Have you ever wanted God to just "leave you alone"?
- 5) What brokenness do you need Jesus to cleanse?

**Suggestions for further study:**

- Deuteronomy 8:1-10 **Q: Where does Moses say obedience flows from?**
- Philippians 2:1-11 **Q: Why has the Father exalted Jesus for such high praise?**
- Hebrews 9:11-14 **Q: What parallels do you see between this passage and the account of Jesus cleansing the temple (Luke 19:45-48)?**

**Closing Prayer:** *"Gracious God, we thank you for how good you are. Lord, you have shown us that goodness by sending your son Jesus to be our perfect king: a king who rides into Jerusalem humbly yet triumphantly on the back of a donkey, who turns over tables, who identifies our brokenness but ultimately takes it on himself so that we would be set free. God, we ask that you would form and shape in us hearts of worship and praise so that we would kneel before you in prayer, trust and follow you in the face of all circumstances, and see that just as you have been good to us in Jesus, you have good things in store for us. Father, we pray this all in the name of our King. Amen."*