



## In Between the Praises and Rejection

March 15th, 2026

### LEAN IN

- Where have you experienced an “in-between” moment in your life in the past?
- Where do you feel like you are “in-between” in life right now?

### LOOK UP – Observation, Interpretation, Application (OIA)

**Read Together:** Luke 19:28-44.

#### **OBSERVATION – What Does the Text Say?**

- What do you notice and what are you curious about?
- What sources of praise & rejection is Jesus’ dealing with at this moment?
- What seems foremost on Jesus’ mind based on his words and actions?

#### **INTERPRETATION – What Does the Passage Mean?**

- What do you notice and what are you curious about?
- What sources of praise & rejection is Jesus’ dealing with at this moment?
- What seems foremost on Jesus’ mind based on his words and actions?

#### **APPLICATION – What Is My Response?**

- How are you encouraged, challenged, or convicted by this passage?
- Do you see ways in which you are pursuing the praises of others?
- If God’s purpose for your life takes you into suffering or misunderstanding by others, how might you respond? Has this happened for you in the past or for others that you know?

## Scripture References

- Luke 19:28-44
- Zechariah 9:9
- John 2:23-25
- Luke 18:31-34
- Galatians 1:10
- Luke 23:18-25

## Prayer

During this service, we prayed for 3 specific groups:

- Those who are realizing that they have substituted the praise of people for their true purpose.
- Those who have experienced the wounds of rejection as they've walked the path with the Lord.
- Those who are trying their best to walk the path of purpose God has for them, but their strength is waning.

If you or someone you love is experiencing one of these things, take time to share with others what is happening. Invite the group to pray specifically for God's help in these ways:

- Repentance: turning from the praise of others to pursue God's purpose above all else.
- Forgiveness: grace to forgive the wounds of rejection inflicted by others.
- Endurance: strength and fortitude to continue the path of faithfulness to the Lord.

## STEP OUT – Practice This Week

To continue living this out, consider practicing one of the following action steps:

- **“Digital Fast”** – social media & online activity is often a way of substituting the “praises of others” for the purpose of God and listening to his voice alone. Creating space in your heart and mind can often allow you to seek God instead of the noise created by others. Learn more about the concept and find resources here: [The Digital Fast](#)
- **Purpose Conversation:** Find 1-2 trusted people you could discuss your sense of purpose with, and come with an open heart. Share with them what you sense God is drawing you toward, invite their feedback and prayers. See what stands out to them; pay attention to what they confirm or question.
- **Pause App** – earlier this year we introduced the Pause App as a way of forging a daily connection with God. Especially if you are in need of endurance, creating daily “anchors”

that keep you rooted in your relationship with God is an essential practice. Consider revisiting the Pause App for the next few weeks, inviting God to strengthen your heart and speak to you through the time it creates