

Are You  
Here For  
The Show  
Or To  
Grow?

John 12:12-19



# Observations

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- The world celebrates today as “Palm Sunday,” which is the Sunday before it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ (we celebrate the resurrection every Sunday)
- The original story is covered in John 12, where John the Apostle records Jesus’ “triumphant entry” into Jerusalem
- This day or “celebration” of sorts was prophesied by Zechariah in chapter 9 verse 9 and repeated here in vs 14

*Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey’s colt. N.L.T.*

- John 12:13 says that the people took palm branches to go out and meet Jesus, thus the phrase, “Palm Sunday”

# Observations

- The Bible says that a large crowd had come out for the feast of the Passover, which honored the Israelites' deliverance from Egyptian slavery
- The crowd had heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, and they had come out to meet Him
- This must have been a bittersweet time for Jesus
- While Jesus knew that He was the Messiah and was worthy of the praise that He would receive; He also knew that Friday was coming! The Cross was coming! (His Scars, The Nails, The spear, His death)
- He knew that many in the crowd who shouted, *"Praise Him"* on that Sunday would mock Him and shout, *"Crucify him"* on the following Friday



# How Could the Same Crowd Praise Jesus and Curse Him 5 Days Later?

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**Their Expectations of Jesus Were Different Than His  
They Saw Jesus as a Man Who Could Make Their Lives Better**

- He had performed miracles (healed their sick, raised Lazarus from the dead in John 11)
- They saw Him as one who could free them from the oppression of the Roman Empire

***Are We Like That?***

***Do We Have Unrealistic Expectations Of Our Relationship With Jesus? "Surely, He will make our lives better." "That's why I'm here!"***

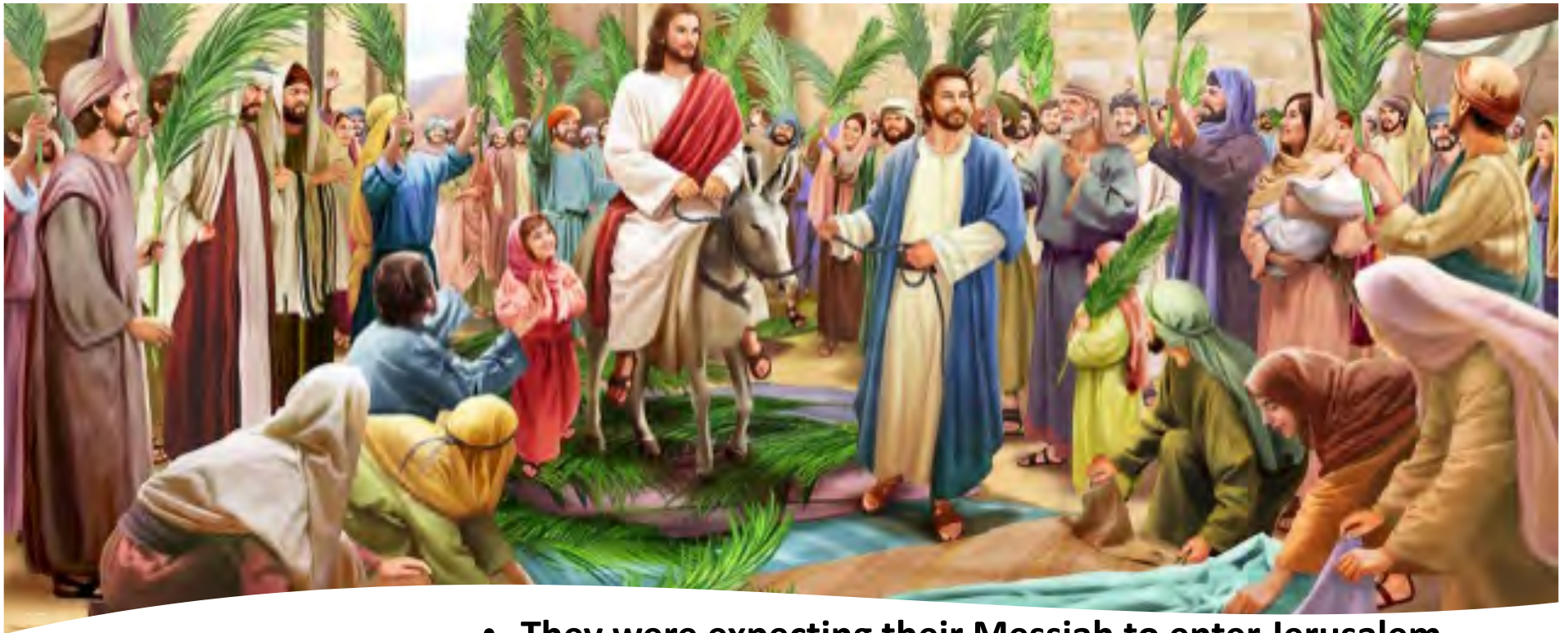


# Do We View God as Our Genie?

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- He is here to make our lives better
- Otherwise we feel He should stay in the lamp and out of the way
- We'll just call on Him for help when we feel we need Him





What They  
Expected in  
Jesus and What  
They Got Were  
Two Different  
Things

- They were expecting their Messiah to enter Jerusalem on a Great Horse (representing power)
- He comes in on a Donkey's Donkey (representing humility) The Jewish Leaders didn't like that
- They were expecting Jesus to lead a revolt against the Roman Empire and thus make their lives better as "God's chosen people"
- Jesus, on the other hand, did come to make their lives better, and ours too; but by dealing with the burden of sin Himself that has infected lives, hurt relationships, and distanced man from God. Isaiah 59:1,2 ; 2 Cor. 5:21 Christ takes sin away!

# #1 Committed Growth Shuns Doubleminded Behavior

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- Notice that at this event it became popular and “trendy” for many to throw their coats and palm branches onto the streets before Jesus
- Later during the trial, shouting “crucify Him” was the “crowd pleasing” thing to do
- To the Jews the parade on Palm Sunday as Jesus entered Jerusalem was the event
- But to Jesus, however, The Cross, later that week, was THE EVENT!
- A few days into the trial when the Jewish people saw Jesus beaten and disfigured, He no longer looked like a conqueror and the people changed their position

# Jesus Then Teaches One Of His Greatest Lessons to His Disciples

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***Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant will also be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. John 12:24-26***

- Jesus was “wonderful” when He was thought of as having come to make life easier to bear; but it is a different matter when he speaks of commitment and sacrifice (marital relationships, personal relationships, personal limits)
- Jesus is interested in “human seeds” who will die to themselves and reproduce “God-like seeds” in the world



# Galatians 2:20

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***I have been crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live (I am not physically dead); yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.***

- Jesus' message challenged each individual Jew
- Well, they didn't like Him, or His message, and you know, ***"the rest of the story!"*** they crucified Him
- The Hebrew writer says that when WE adapt to a life of sin after being accepted by the Lord, we ***"crucify the Son of God afresh and put Him to an open shame."*** Heb. 6:6
- The glory of a conquering king and the glory of the crucified cross in our lives are two different things

## #2 Committed Growth is Not Blocked By Personal Crises

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- On Sunday in this story, it was popular and trendy to shout “Hosanna” or Praise to Jesus at the parade
- But at the Trial of Jesus Christ it could have been “life threatening” for the people in the crowd to shout that
- Matthew 26:56 says, *“Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.” (even Peter, James, and John, his closest friends)*
- Peter later wept about disappointing Jesus, Matt 26:75
- Peter had a personal crisis betraying the Son of God
- Point: We have to die to our own rights and agendas even when our trials affect no one else but us (this is what Peter found out) His agenda was “self preservation!”

# Observations

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- Many of us come politely to Jesus expecting every thing to go good (maybe some occasional bad but not too much)
- So when life takes a turn for the worse we often ask God why? (thinking that this is not supposed to happen to me)

**Consider This:**

**If Our Faith Is Based On Our Situations  
Or Our Circumstances It Will Never Be  
Committed to Jesus!**

- Situation Ethicist-Man negotiating with a co-worker

# #3 Committed Growth Takes the Good With the Bad

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- Remember Job's reasoning to his wife when they both had lost all 10 children at once and he became physically ill?
- She was fed up with God and recommended that Job "curse God and die!"
- Job's reply in chapter 2 and verse 10 is a teachable point:  
*"You are talking like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?"*
- Job says, *"Honey, Are you God's fair-weather friend?"*
- *"As long as I was the richest man in the east (Job 1:3) and you were the beneficiary of that, God was alright with you!"*



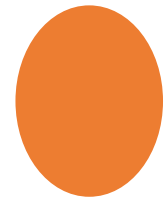
# It Boils Down to a Matter of Trust

- In trusting, we understand that God is using our trials, our pressures, and our difficulties to glorify Himself (put Himself on display) and increase the spiritual beauty in us:

*... we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience experience; and experience, hope: Romans 5:3*

*And hope maketh not ashamed (feel short-changed); because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us.*

- Paul says, “don’t focus on your problems, focus on GOD’S PROMISES!” Matthew 28:20, ... *I will be with you always, even to the end of the world (in the good times and the bad).*



# The Plan of Salvation

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**Hear the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**

**Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**

**Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**

**Acts 8:38**