

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE: “HOSANNA – EXPECTATIONS AND TRUE KINGSHIP”

(Matthew 21:9 – Palm Sunday)

Source:

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the true King—but not always the King we expect. Following Him requires surrendering our expectations and walking in faith, not control.

THEME

Trusting Jesus Beyond Our Expectations

CONTEXT (Historical + Biblical Setting)







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- Found in **Matthew 21:9**, during Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
 - Known as **Palm Sunday**, beginning Holy Week.
 - The crowd proclaims:
 - "Hosanna" (Save us now)
 - Jesus as King and Messiah
 - However, they misunderstand His mission:
 - Expecting political liberation
 - Instead, Jesus brings spiritual salvation
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MAIN POINT 1: JESUS IS KING—BUT NOT AS EXPECTED

Key Scripture

- Matthew 21:9 – *"Hosanna to the Son of David..."*
- Zechariah 9:9 – *"See, your king comes... gentle and riding on a donkey."*

Teaching Insight

- Jesus enters:
 - On a donkey (symbol of peace and humility)
 - Not a war horse (symbol of conquest)
- This reveals:
 - A different kind of kingdom
 - A different kind of power

Application

- What kind of “King” are you expecting Jesus to be?
- Are you open to how He actually works?

Sticky Quote

“Jesus is King—but not always the King we expect.”

MAIN POINT 2: MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS LEAD TO DISAPPOINTMENT

Key Scripture

- John 6:15 – People try to make Jesus king by force.
- Isaiah 55:8–9 – *“My thoughts are not your thoughts...”*

Teaching Insight

- The crowd expected:
 - Political freedom
 - Immediate change
- When expectations weren’t met:
 - Praise turned into rejection (later in the week)
- Unrealistic expectations can distort faith.

Application

- What expectations are you placing on Jesus?

- Are you trusting His will—or your desired outcome?

Sticky Quote

“When expectations are wrong, faith can be shaken.”

MAIN POINT 3: FAITH TRUSTS EVEN WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND

Key Scripture

- Hebrews 11:1 – *“Faith is confidence in what we hope for...”*
- Proverbs 3:5–6 – *“Trust in the Lord...”*

Teaching Insight

- Following Jesus involves:
 - Uncertainty
 - Risk
 - Trust
- Faith means:
 - Walking without full clarity
 - Trusting God’s bigger plan

Application

- Where are you struggling to trust God?
- Can you follow Him even without answers?

Sticky Quote

“Faith walks forward even when it doesn’t see the full path.”

MAIN POINT 4: JESUS’ MISSION IS SPIRITUAL, NOT JUST PHYSICAL

Key Scripture

- Luke 19:10 – *“To seek and save the lost.”*
- John 18:36 – *“My kingdom is not of this world.”*

Teaching Insight

- Jesus came to:
 - Defeat sin
 - Restore relationship with God
- Not to:
 - Overthrow Rome
 - Establish political power
- His victory comes through:
 - The cross
 - Sacrifice
 - Resurrection

Application

- Are you focused more on temporary or eternal outcomes?
- How does this change your perspective?

Sticky Quote

“Jesus didn’t come to fix your circumstances—He came to save your soul.”

MAIN POINT 5: TRUE FOLLOWING REQUIRES SURRENDER

Key Scripture

- Luke 9:23 – *“Take up your cross daily...”*
- Romans 12:1 – *“Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice...”*

Teaching Insight

- Following Jesus isn’t:
 - About comfort
 - About control
- It is about:
 - Surrender
 - Obedience
 - Trust
- The road may lead:
 - To mountaintops

- Or to the cross

Application

- What are you holding onto that needs to be surrendered?
- Are you willing to follow wherever He leads?

Sticky Quote

“You can’t follow Jesus and stay in control.”

MAIN POINT 6: JESUS DESERVES PRAISE IN EVERY SEASON

Key Scripture

- Matthew 21:9 – *“Hosanna in the highest!”*
- Psalm 34:1 – *“I will bless the Lord at all times...”*

Teaching Insight

- The crowd praised Jesus:
 - Before understanding the full story
- True worship:
 - Is not based on circumstances
 - Continues through confusion
- Faith praises even when life is unclear.

Application

- Do you praise God only when things go well?
- Can you worship Him in uncertainty?

Sticky Quote

“Real praise doesn’t depend on perfect circumstances.”

MAIN POINT 7: JESUS WANTS TO REIGN IN YOUR HEART

Key Scripture

- Revelation 3:20 – *“I stand at the door and knock...”*
- Galatians 2:20 – *“Christ lives in me...”*

Teaching Insight

- Palm Sunday is not just historical—it’s personal.
- Jesus desires:
 - Access to your heart
 - Authority in your life
- His reign brings:
 - Love
 - Grace
 - Transformation

Application

- Have you truly allowed Jesus to be King of your life?

- What areas are you still holding back?

Sticky Quote

“Jesus didn’t just come to Jerusalem—He wants to come into your heart.”

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What expectations do people often place on Jesus?
 2. How can wrong expectations affect faith?
 3. What does it mean to trust God without understanding?
 4. Where do you struggle with surrender?
 5. How can you praise God in difficult seasons?
 6. What does it look like to let Jesus reign in your life?
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PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

- Surrender one expectation you’ve placed on God.
 - Practice praise regardless of circumstances today.
 - Trust God intentionally in one uncertain situation.
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FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

The crowd shouted *“Hosanna!”*

But the real question is:

Will you still follow when the path leads to the cross?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father,

Help us surrender our expectations and trust in Your will.

Teach us to follow You in faith, even when we don't understand.

Let our lives be marked by praise, surrender, and trust.

Reign fully in our hearts today.

In Jesus' name, Amen.