

## Sunday, July 20, 2025: Know Jesus

### Matthew 21:1-11

Will you know Jesus when you see him?

**21** As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> "Say to Daughter Zion,  
'See, your king comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

<sup>6</sup> The disciples did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup> The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

### Introduction:

Your spiritual health is in the balance. It is time to wake up. Spiritual apathy is killing hundreds of churches yearly. Christians looking for the church to hold their faith and we do not take it for ourselves. We are at risk of not knowing Jesus when He is right in front of us.

Spiritual apathy:

- Breeding unrepentance
- Breeding idolatry
- Breeding hatred
- Breeding pride

Some Christians are poorly representing what we stake our identity in. There are people that are tainting the very thing we want to show the world. To the world we are image bearers of God and people are judging Christ based on how we live and our actions.

When an unchanged, unrepentant, "someone" taints God by labelling him or using him as a label for their brand or their politics, that should make you mad. When an unchanged, unrepentant "someone" taints God by measuring his goodness based on their earthly

circumstance, that should make you mad. God is not good just because you have money, status, preferable circumstance. God is good because he is the only reason we know what good is, because he is God.

1. **Spiritual Apathy in Matthew:**

Throughout Matthew we see crowds of people following Jesus and they are inquisitive but not enough to do something about it. Pharisees ask questions just to provoke him; some stay unrepentant and turn away.

Jesus is right there, in front of them and they do not get it, they do not know who he is. They do not challenge their faith.

2. **Prophecy in this passage:**

This passage talks about the prophecy of the savior that is to come. The intention of Jesus riding on a donkey was him telling the world he is the Messiah. He knew, some crowds knew the prophecy, all practitioners of faith knew this prophecy.

3. **Did some people get it? Do we get it?**

Yes! "If I can just touch his cloak I'll be healed." People approaching him for healing. Jesus casting out demons and sometimes for people that are not even there.

We get to look at our lives, instead of crediting other people or things, we get to look at what is good and say, "God did that."

We have a crowd that gets it: "Hosanna to the Son of David!" Hosanna meaning "Save Now" Son of David, acknowledging he is from the lineage of David. "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup>The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Claims and associating him to prophecy. The messiah was promised to come, and he is here! They get it! They see Jesus because they seek him! Does your walk with the Lord scream evidence of a heart that cries Hosanna? Or are you like those we see in verse ten?

Do you know Him? Do you acknowledge or do life with him outside of church services, outside of bringing your needs to Him? Ministry without prayer and The Word is not a relationship with God. You may be serving him, but are you seeking him?

4. **We want more, but not necessarily of God:**

Matthew 19:<sup>27</sup> Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" <sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Matthew 20:<sup>21</sup> "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." <sup>22</sup> "You don't know

what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

Your reward is Christ.

Colossians 3:<sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

We do not measure God by earthly circumstance. God is not more or less good based on prosperity, health, relationship, or status. You do not get MORE because you are doing your job of what has already been asked of you.

You get God, you get to SEE God because you seek him. You get to deepen your relationship with God and KNOW that he is GOD. When you listen to God, you get more God.

#### 5. **"Take up your cross and follow me."**

We need a revival. We need to wake up. Jesus has this moment of glory. Crowds praised him as he entered the city of Jerusalem. We are called to make disciples and to share the good news of salvation. The goal is to serve the creator who you put you in a place and time such as this. If you get to see God, bring glory to himself and draw people to himself, because you carried out what God asked you to do; you did not do that, GOD DID THAT!

What is worse than being an atheist? It is knowing there is a God and acting as if he does not exist.

"Will you know Jesus when you see him?"

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Was there a time when you attended an event, went somewhere where you felt special? What happened that made you feel special? Who was the group- did you know them well? If someone were coming to your home, to your event (life group?) that you wanted to feel special- what changes would you make to your home, to your event to make sure they felt that?

2. Apathy is something that affects all people from time to time. Why do you think people grow apathetic? What are the excuses we hide behind? What are your leading causes of apathy? What are you most apathetic about? Where in the Church is indifference highest? Why can't we afford to be lethargic in our faith?

3. Are you a passionate person? In what areas? How do passion, purpose and perspective relate to each other? What happens when we have passion without purpose? What happens if we have purpose without proper perspective? What should Christians be passionate about? Why? How do you know? How is a godly passion ignited in the life of a Christ-follower?

4. Would you know Him? Ponder this. What changes do you need to make in your life to ensure that indeed you will know Him, that you DO know Him, that you are carrying out your purpose in Him? Can your life group help you in this endeavor- reach out! We are here to walk our faith in Christ out together.