

WHAT KIND OF KING ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

John 12:12–22



THE BIG IDEA

The crowd welcomed Jesus as King, but many expected Him to be the kind of king they had imagined—a political deliverer who would overthrow Rome.

The crowd wanted Jesus to be the King they had imagined. Jesus came to be the King they actually needed.

1 JOHN 12:12–13 — THE KING IS COMING

“The next day the great crowd... heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, ‘Hosanna!’ ... ‘Blessed is the king of Israel!’”

Jesus had healed the sick, fed thousands, opened blind eyes, and raised Lazarus. The people rushed out to meet Him. Palm branches represented victory and national deliverance. Many hoped Jesus would defeat Rome and restore Israel.



They were thinking Rome. Jesus was dealing with sin.



They wanted Jesus to change what was happening around them. Jesus came to change what was happening inside them.

2 JOHN 12:14–16 — THE HUMBLE KING

“See, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”

Jesus deliberately fulfilled prophecy. He did not enter Jerusalem on a war horse, surrounded by soldiers or carrying a sword. He came humbly. The crowd wanted a conquering king, but Jesus came first as the suffering King. Before He wore a crown of glory, He would wear a crown of thorns.



We may not always understand what God is doing, but we can still trust Him.

3 DANIEL 9:25–26 — THE KING ARRIVED ON TIME

Daniel prophesied about the coming Messiah and that afterward He would be “cut off.” Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem was not accidental. Jesus was not early. Jesus was not late. The King arrived right on time. Passover was approaching, and the Lamb of God had entered Jerusalem knowing the road would lead Him to the Cross.



4 JOHN 12:17–19 — EVERYONE IS TALKING

“The crowd... continued to spread the word.”

The raising of Lazarus created enormous attention around Jesus. The frustrated Pharisees declared, “Look how the whole world has gone after him!”



5 JOHN 12:20-22 — “WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE JESUS”

Some Greeks came to Philip with a simple request: “Sir, we would like to see Jesus.” These Gentiles were from outside Israel, showing that Jesus had come for more than one nation. Jewish people were coming. Samaritans had believed. Now Gentiles were seeking Him. Jesus came for the world.



There is a difference between wanting something from Jesus and wanting Jesus Himself.

6 JOHN 10:16

“I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also.”

Jesus had already revealed that His salvation would extend beyond Israel. Later in John 12, Jesus would say, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” Jesus would not establish His kingdom by raising an army. He would establish it by giving His life.



7 WHY DID THE KING COME?



LUKE 19:10

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”



ROMANS 5:8

“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”



1 PETER 2:24

“He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross.”

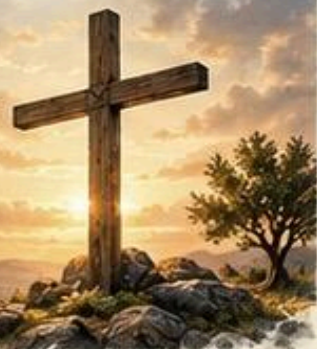
The people shouted, “Hosanna! Save us!” Jesus knew what they truly needed to be saved from: sin. He was already on His way to the Cross to do exactly that.

8 APPLICATION

-  **FOLLOW JESUS FOR WHO HE IS** — Do not follow Jesus only because of what you hope He will do for you.
-  **TRUST JESUS WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND** — Like the disciples, you may not always understand what God is doing, but you can still trust the King.
-  **DON'T LET YOUR EXPECTATIONS BLIND YOU** — The religious leaders knew Scripture, but their expectations kept them from recognizing the Messiah.
-  **MAKE IT YOUR DESIRE TO SEE JESUS** — Let your heart say: “Jesus, help me see You for who You really are.”

9 REFLECTION

- 1 **Fill in the blank:** The crowd wanted Jesus to change what was happening _____ them, but Jesus came to change what was happening _____ them.
- 2 **Fill in the blank:** There is a difference between wanting something _____ Jesus and truly wanting _____ Himself.
- 3 **Challenge question:** What expectations have you placed on Jesus that may be keeping you from seeing and trusting Him for who He truly is?




FINAL TRUTH

The humble King came to serve. The saving King gave His life for us. The faithful King never changes. Jesus may not always be the King we imagined, but He is always the King we need.