

The Greatest Week In History

Pt. 1, The King They Wanted vs The King They Needed

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Matthew 11:1-11 (NIV) *“As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 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. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.” 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:5 “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.’”6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 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!” 10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” 11 The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”*

Key Question: How do you go from exalting Jesus to rejecting Him?

1. The Crowd was Passionate but Misguided

A. What They Got Right

- 1) They praised Him.

B. What They Got Wrong

- 1) Why they praised Him.
- 2) They defined how they expected Jesus to save them.

John 6:15 (NIV) *“Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.”*

Luke 19:11 (NKJV) *“They thought that the Kingdom of God should immediately appear.”*

If I have a false image of who God is, then my expectation begins to form a god made in my image and my desires.

C. Questions to Consider

- 1) Do I follow Jesus, or do I follow my version of Jesus?
- 2) Is my faith built on Truth, or just my expectations?

2. Expectation Shapes Devotion

V. 10-11 (NIV) *“Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this 11 The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”*

A. The Problem

- 1) Their expectation was a political deliverer; God’s Plan was a Spiritual Savior.

“If Your expectation of Jesus is wrong, your faith will be fragile.”

B. Signs Faith is Becoming Fragile

- 1) You stop praying and reading the Word like you use to.
- 2) Stop engaging like you use to.
- 3) Slowly drift instead of openly deny.

C. If this is true, It’s OK to ask:

- 1) Am I drifting because Jesus did not do what I expected.
- 2) Am I allowing my disappointment of what God didn’t do get in the way of what He wants to do?

God’s plans, His ways, His thoughts and outcomes are higher than yours.

3. Jesus Came for More Than They Wanted

A. What did they want? - - Freedom from Rome - -

B. What did Jesus Come to do?

- 1) Free Them from Sin.

Romans 5:8 (NIV) *“God demonstrated his own love for us that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.”*

- 2) Restore Them to God.

Luke 19:10 (NKJV) *“...to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

- 3) Give Them Salvation and Eternal life.

Romans 6:23 (NIV) *“the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

They wanted relief, but Jesus came for redemption.

God is not ignoring you; He’s doing something greater than you can ask, think or imagine.

Final Questions to settle in your heart

1. Will I choose to trust God even when I don't understand what He is doing?
2. Will I choose to follow Jesus for who He is, not just for what He can do for me?

What looked like disappointment, was actually salvation in motion.

Don't allow what you can't see, to hinder what God is trying to do in your life.