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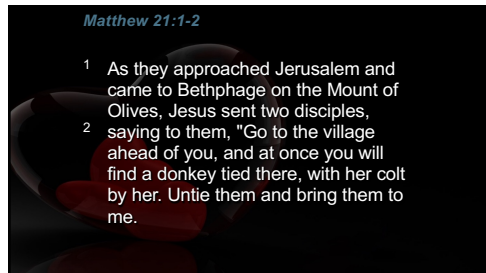
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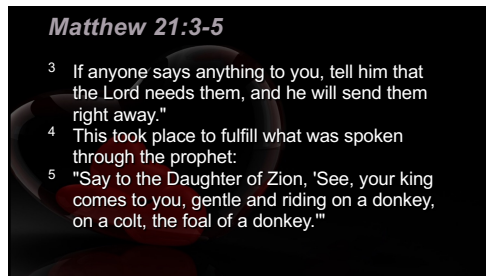
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**Matthew 21:6-8**

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.

7 They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.

8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

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**Matthew 21:9-11**

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!"

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."

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*And Jerusalem Wants To Know...*

**Who is this?**

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**Who Is This?**

Scribes/Pharisees	False Teacher Who Manipulates the Ignorant
Ordinary People	Good Teacher-Prophet-Nazareth
Romans	One more Jewish religious fanatic
Broken / Hurting	Healer - Deliverer -- Preacher

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*And Jesus asks us personally...*

**But Who Do You Say I Am?**

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**Who Is This?**

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Ordinary People	Good Teacher-Prophet-Nazareth
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Disciples	Messiah - Lord - Conqueror

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*What Does God look like to you?*

Were we able to extract from any man a complete answer to the question, "What comes to your mind when you think about God?" we might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that man.

-A.W Tozer

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*Matthew 20:17-19*

17 And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, 18 "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death 19 and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."

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*Why did the disciples seemingly ignore this warning?*

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**Key Points**

1. God's gentle guidance can cause us to diminish the severity of the warning
2. Simultaneous sorrow and rejoicing seems inconsistent to us
3. Cognitive bias causes us to ignore unpleasant truth

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**Key Points**

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**Gentle**

1. Considerate or kindly in disposition
2. Not harsh or severe
3. Meek

Meekness toward God is that disposition of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting.

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***Strength Enables Gentleness***  
"Strong men can always afford to be gentle. Only the weak are intent on 'giving as good as they get.'"  
Elbert Hubbard

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***Process of Trial***

1. Preparation: Teaching
2. Surprise: Unexpected turn
3. Trial: Test, Temptation
4. Debrief: Glory Revealed

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***Trial Process: Peter***

1. Preparation: Mount, Lesson, Rebuke
2. Surprise: Judas betrayal, Arrest
3. Trial: Jesus arrested, 3 tests
4. Debrief: Huge Catch, "Love me?"

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**Matthew 24:37-39**

37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

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**Positive Circumstances**

1. Cheering Crowds
2. Hosanna!
3. Cleansing of the Temple
4. Public Defeat of Religious Leaders

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**2 Peter 3:9-10a**

9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief...

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**Romans 2:4**

4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

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**Strength Enables Gentleness**

Seek his strength, and then seek his face; for by his strength, we hope to prevail with him for his favour, as Jacob did [when he wrestled with the angel of the Lord]

Matthew Henry

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**Key Points**

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**Normalcy Bias**

Normalcy Bias is the tendency to underestimate the likelihood or impact of a disaster or other crisis. This bias can lead people to make inadequate or inappropriate preparations for a crisis, or to underestimate the severity of a situation that we've not experienced before.

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**Optimism Bias**

An optimism bias may cause us to believe that we are less likely to experience hardships than other people are, and more likely to experience success.

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**Confirmation Bias**

Confirmation bias is the tendency to search for, interpret, focus on and remember information in a way that confirms one's preconceptions

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**Key Points**

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**2 Corinthians 6:10**

as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

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**Isaiah 53:3**

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

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**Man of Sorrows**

1. Dubious birth into poverty
2. Town with a bad reputation
3. Lacking physical attractiveness
4. Occupation without distinction
5. Message of repentance - holiness
6. Calling opposite what was expected
7. Sojourner with outsider status
8. Uneducated and simple disciples

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**Hebrews 13:12-15**

12So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. 13Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. 14For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. 15Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

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**BELOVED**  
*Gentle in Heart*

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