

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: The Start of Something Better
Message: Hopes Crushed
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: April 2, 2023

As we approach Good Friday and Easter, take some time to think about what the situation in Jerusalem was like for Jesus and His followers. His enemies were out to eliminate Him and the huge crowd that had come to celebrate Passover. Read John chapters 18 and 19.

Jesus enters the city as a hoped-for hero. In a few days He will be arrested, convicted illegally, and the crowds will call for His execution.

What made the crowds turn against Him so dramatically?

Do you see similar things like this happening today where public opinion shifts based on exciting news or opinioned leaders spreading big ideas?

If you had been there as one of Jesus' followers, how might you have reacted? Felt?

After His death, Jesus' disciples (except for Judas) go into hiding, afraid for their lives. They had tied their hopes to Jesus, and now He is gone. What must that have been like for them and their families?

We know Easter is coming, and Jesus will be shown as the Messiah. What does that mean to you as you think about where you place the hopes and desires for your life?

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation

MESSAGE NOTES



Series: The Start of Something Better
Message: Hopes Crushed
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: April 2, 2023

At the beginning of Passover week, Jesus is treated like a hero.

⁹ When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead.

¹⁰ Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, ¹¹ for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus. ¹² The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors ¹³ took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel!"

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: ¹⁵ "Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt." ¹⁶ His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him. ¹⁷ Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were

telling others about it. ¹⁸ That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. ¹⁹ Then the Pharisees said to each other, "There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!"
John 12:9–19 (NLT)

Jesus' enemies felt hopeless at this point. But soon that will change.

¹ The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is also called Passover, was approaching. ² The leading priests and teachers of religious law were plotting how to kill Jesus, but they were afraid of the people's reaction. ³ Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, ⁴ and he went to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them. ⁵ They were delighted, and they promised to give him money. ⁶ So he agreed and began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus so they could arrest him when the crowds weren't around.

Luke 22:1–6 (NLT)

Hope can be misleading.

When our hopes are based on circumstances or our "wants", we set ourselves up to be fooled and/or manipulated.

Hope needs a solid anchor that can only be found in Jesus – not how we imagine Him, but who He really is.

³¹ Jesus asked, "Do you finally believe? ³² But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. ³³ I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

John 16:31–33 (NLT)

This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.

Hebrews 6:19 (NLT)