



Finding God in the Unexpected

John 12:12-37

Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021



John 12:12-37 (The Living Bible)

Coronation

¹²The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city, and a huge crowd of Passover visitors ¹³took palm branches and went down the road to meet him, shouting, “The Savior! God bless the King of Israel! Hail to God’s Ambassador!” ¹⁴Jesus rode along on a young donkey, fulfilling the prophecy that said: ¹⁵“Don’t be afraid of your King, people of Israel, for he will come to you meekly, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” ¹⁶(His disciples didn’t realize at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy; but after Jesus returned to his glory in heaven, then they noticed how many prophecies of Scripture had come true before their eyes.). ¹⁷And those in the crowd who had seen Jesus call Lazarus back to life were telling all about it. ¹⁸That was the main reason why so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this mighty miracle. ¹⁹Then the Pharisees said to each other, “We’ve lost. Look—the whole world has gone after him!”

The Greeks

²⁰Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem to attend the Passover ²¹paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida, and said, “Sir, we want to meet Jesus.” ²²Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus. ²³⁻²⁴Jesus replied that the time had come for him to return to his glory in heaven, and that “I must fall and die like a kernel of wheat that falls into the furrows of the earth. Unless I die I will be alone—

a single seed. But my death will produce many new wheat kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. ²⁵ If you love your life down here—you will lose it. If you despise your life down here—you will exchange it for eternal glory. ²⁶ “If these Greeks want to be my disciples, tell them to come and follow me, for my servants must be where I am. And if they follow me, the Father will honor them.

Escape Clause

²⁷ Now my soul is deeply troubled. Shall I pray, ‘Father, save me from what lies ahead’? But that is the very reason why I came!

Not Today, Thank You

³⁷ But despite all the miracles he had done, most of the people would not believe he was the Messiah... ⁴² However, even many of the Jewish leaders believed him to be the Messiah but wouldn’t admit it to anyone because of their fear that the Pharisees would excommunicate them from the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Unmet expectations lead to:

- Anger and bitterness - destroys relationships
- Disappointment – discouragement and let down
- Disillusionment – *“I thought this would look different”*

Finding God in the unexpected

- Because we know how life works, we can anticipate God moving **before** the unexpected shows up – hope is found here
- We see His involvement **after** the unexpected – confidence in God is built here
- We hold onto God **in** the unexpected – companionship, consolation, and assurance is found here.
 - Is. 53 – man of sorrows acquainted with grief
 - Psalm 23 – The Lord as shepherd, while in the valley called Death