

Who is This?

Pastor Kris Brenes

Your response to Jesus reveals what you truly believe about Him.

Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" Matthew 21:8-10

Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³ And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" Matthew 27:20-23

God is writing a bigger story than we can see.

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." Matthew 21:1-3 ESV

Jesus often shows up in unexpected ways.

"Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" Matthew 21:5

It's possible to be close to Jesus and still miss who He is.

We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!" Matthew 20:18-19

Jesus reveals Himself most clearly through the cross.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Have you answered the question: "Who is this?"

Let's Talk About It

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowd asked, "Who is this?" People responded in very different ways—some praised Him as King, while others would later call for His crucifixion. Even those closest to Him didn't fully understand who He was or what He came to do. This reminds us that it's possible to be near Jesus and still miss Him. He didn't come to meet expectations—He came to fulfill God's purpose through the cross. That same question still stands for us today: *Who do you believe Jesus is?* Our response reveals what we truly believe about Him. And as we follow Him—even without full understanding—we can trust that God is at work and invites us to join Him in what He's already doing in the lives of others.

Matthew 20:17-19; 21:1-10; 27:21-23; Zechariah 9:9; Romans 5:6-8; Isaiah 53:3-6, 9-12

Discussion questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read Matthew 20:17-19. Why do you think the disciples didn't understand the significance of what was happening? What does it look like for you to follow Jesus even when you don't fully understand what He's doing?
- Read Matthew 21:1-11. What are some of the expectations that people had for the Messiah? How is it possible to be around Jesus but still miss who He really is? What expectations about Jesus might you need to surrender or rethink?
- What is something that God has been telling you to do? What are some of your excuses or things that have hindered you from going and doing it?
- Where might God already be at work around you that you could step into this week? What's one simple step you can take this week to join God in what He's doing in someone else's life?

Take a Step

Ask God to show you **one person** in your life who may be asking, "Who is Jesus?"—even if they've never said it out loud. Pray for them, look for where God may already be at work, and take one simple step of obedience—reach out, start a conversation, or invite them to Easter. Trust that God is already ahead of you.

Here's My Prayer

God, thank You for revealing who You are through the cross. Forgive me for the times I've misunderstood You or tried to shape You around my expectations. Help me to see Jesus clearly and trust You fully, even when I don't understand. Open my eyes to where You are already at work around me and give me the courage to step out and join You. Use my life to help others see who Jesus really is. In Jesus' name, amen.