

## THE KING I WANT VS. THE KING I NEED

1. Thank Grant and Lex.
2. Tell story about Mia (July 23, 2017)
3. Story about Dollar Tree and inviting people to Easter..“your invitation could be the very thing that changes someone else’s life.”

Today is not just another Sunday. Today is Palm Sunday. And Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the most significant week in our faith. This is the week that leads to the cross...and ultimately to the resurrection.

This is the day that Jesus Christ makes His entrance into Jerusalem. This wasn't random timing. Jerusalem was packed...people had come from everywhere for Passover.

In Exodus is the story where God's people (the Israelites) had been stuck as slaves in Egypt for a very long time. But God loved them and wanted to rescue them, so He sent a leader named Moses to help bring them out. God told His people, I'm about to bring you out, but I need you to trust Me. He gave them a very specific instruction: He said, 'Take a lamb, and put its blood on the doorframe of your house.'

God made a promise:

**When I see the blood, I will pass over your house, and you will be safe.**

And sure enough, every house that had the blood on it...was protected.

That's why it's called **Passover** because the danger *passed over* the houses that were covered.

So Passover is a time where they remembered how God delivered them from Egypt.

And at the time of Jesus, Israel wasn't free, it was controlled by the **Roman Empire**.

- Heavy taxes were placed on the Jewish people
- Roman soldiers enforced control and could be brutal
- Jewish leaders had limited authority under Rome

So the atmosphere is already charged with expectation.

They're thinking about how they are getting a king who is going to bring freedom, they're thinking about deliverance, they're expecting God to move again, to deliver them again.

And into that moment...Jesus rides in. Not hidden, not quietly but intentionally.

In Zechariah 9:9 there was a prophecy spoken  
"See, your king comes to you... gentle and riding on a donkey..."

And now on Palm Sunday, the prophecy is being fulfilled, this is a King...but not the kind they were expecting.

Let's go to the scripture and read:

### **Matthew 21:1-11 (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.'"<sup>[a]</sup>

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[b] to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”[c]

“Hosanna[d] 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.”

This moment... is not just praise as they're shouting and waving palm branches it's a moment **LOADED with expectation.**

They had the right King.....**but the wrong expectation.**

So if you're taking notes today...

**The title of my message is—The King I Want vs. The King I Need.**

And here's the question we're going to wrestle with...

**Will I follow Him when He doesn't meet my expectations?**

Because Palm Sunday isn't just something that happened... **It's something we still live out.**

We still praise Him, we still ask Him to move. But what happens...**when He doesn't move the way you expect Him too?**

In Matthew 21, Jesus rides into Jerusalem.

The people are shouting:

"Hosanna!" — which literally means "Save us now!"

They're throwing down palm branches—this is not random. Palm branches were a symbol of victory. Of revolution. Of takeover.

This wasn't just praise...

This was expectation.

They were saying:

Finally, He's here to do what we've been waiting on.

They wanted:

- A political Savior
- A cultural reset
- Immediate relief

But Jesus doesn't come in on a war horse.

He comes in on a donkey.

Not dominance. Not takeover.

He comes in with peace and humility.

And here's the tension:

**They praised Him for who they thought He would be, not for who He actually was.**

**Illustration**

Have you ever ordered something online? You saw the picture. Read the reviews.

Already imagined how it would look. And when it shows up...it's not what you expected.

Nothing may even be wrong with it...**It just didn't match what you pictured.**

And now you're frustrated, not because it failed...But because it didn't meet your expectations.

And if we're honest...**We've done the same thing with God.** We don't just want Him to be King. **We want Him to be our kind of King.**

**We want God—but we want Him filtered through our preferences.**

**And the danger is...  
when God doesn't meet our expectations,  
we don't always reject Him out loud—  
we just start drifting in how we see Him.**

**We start**

- 1.missing His presence...**
- 2.misplacing our expectations...**
- 3.and misinterpreting who He really is.**

**Let me show you how this plays out in real time...**

**Because the first danger is this...**

**you can be close to Jesus... and still completely miss Him.**

## **1. MISSED PRESENCE**

**YOU CAN CELEBRATE JESUS AND STILL MISS HIM**

In Luke 19, the same crowd is shouting, and Jesus starts weeping.  
That always gets me.

Because nobody else is crying.  
The crowd is celebrating.  
The disciples are excited.

But Jesus... is grieving.

Why?

Because they're close to Him... but they don't actually see Him.

### Emmaus Road (Luke 24)

You can be around Jesus and still miss Him.

You can:

- Know the language
- Be in the room
- Lift your hands
- Read the daily YouVersion verse
- Post the scripture

...and still be disconnected from who He really is.

### **REAL TALK MOMENT**

We've created a version of Jesus that:

- Affirms everything
- Confronts nothing
- Blesses everything
- Requires nothing

But that's not a King.  
That's a consultant.

And Jesus didn't come to advise your life.  
He came to take over it.

Savior VS. Lord

And the thing is when you miss who He really is...

you start expecting Him to be something He never said He would be.

And that's where things begin to shift...

because now it's not just about missed presence...

it's about misplaced expectations.

## 2. MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS

### DISAPPOINTMENT REVEALS WHAT YOU REALLY BELIEVE

Just a few days later...

The same voices that shouted "Hosanna"  
are now shouting "Crucify Him."

Same city.

Same people.

Same Jesus.

So what changed?

**Their expectations weren't met.**

He didn't:

- Overthrow Rome
- Fix things fast
- Do it their way

And when Jesus didn't match what they had in mind...  
their praise turned into rejection.

Because praise that is built on expectation...  
will collapse under disappointment.

They weren't committed to who He was,  
they were attached to what they thought He would do.

And the moment He didn't perform...  
they pulled back their devotion.

## **REAL LIFE EXAMPLES**

This isn't just their story, this is ours.

We shout "Hosanna" when:

- The job interview goes well
- The relationship is promising
- The opportunity opens
- We get the raise

But what about when:

- You don't get the call back?
- The relationship falls apart?
- The door closes without explanation?
- We are still living paycheck to paycheck?

Now all of a sudden:

God, where are you?  
Why would you let this happen?  
I thought you told me...

Some of us built our faith around:

- If I do right, life will go right.

- If I obey, I'll avoid pain.
- If I trust God, everything will work out the way I want.

And when it doesn't...

We don't always say "Crucify Him" out loud  
BUT internally, something shifts.

## ILLUSTRATION

Have you ever been excited about what God was doing...  
until it didn't go how you thought?

"I thought this door would open..."

"I thought this would work out..."

"I thought obedience would feel better than this..."

You stepped out on faith...  
and it got harder, not easier.

You trusted God...  
and it got more confusing, not clearer.

You obeyed...  
and it cost you more than you expected.

And slowly...your tone changed.

**You didn't stop believing...**  
**but you stopped trusting.**

You still showed up...  
but your heart pulled back.

## DEEPER ILLUSTRATIONS

- You prayed for healing... and the report didn't change
- You honored God in your finances... and things still felt tight
- You forgave them... and they never apologized
- You did things the right way... and still got overlooked

And now there's this quiet tension in your heart:

God, I thought You would...

**Disappointment with God often reveals misplaced expectations of God.**

We tend to treat Him like:

- A formula
- A transaction
- A predictable system

But God is not a formula.

He's not a vending machine where you insert obedience and get outcomes on demand.

**If my faith only works when life works... then my faith was never really in God.**

Because here's the truth:

God never promised:

- A painless life
- A predictable process
- A problem-free path

**Isaiah 43:2 NLT**

**When you go through deep waters,**

**I will be with you.**

**When you go through rivers of difficulty,**

**you will not drown.**

When you walk through the fire of oppression,

you will not be burned up;

the flames will not consume you.

What He *did* promise:

- His presence
- His purpose
- His power working in you

They wanted a King who would make life easier..

But Jesus came to make them new.

And if we're not careful,  
we'll reject the transformation we need...

because it doesn't look like the outcome we wanted.

EX: diet, pills, shots, etc.

We want the easy way out but the only thing that produces real change is true transformation. Changing our habits, beliefs, etc.

So if we've missed His presence...

and we've misplaced our expectations...

it's no wonder we've misunderstood His kingdom.

### **3. MISUNDERSTOOD KINGDOM**

## **THE KING WE NEED WON'T ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THE ONE WE WANT**

In John 18, Jesus says:

"My kingdom is not of this world."

In other words:

I didn't come to do what you expected—I came to do what you needed.

They wanted:

- External change

He came for:

- Internal transformation

They wanted:

- Rome overthrown

He came to:

- Break sin
- Defeat death
- Restore identity

## **ILLUSTRATION**

It's like going to a doctor thinking you need pain relief...

Just give me something to take the edge off.

But the doctor says,

"No, there's something deeper going on, we need to treat the root."

Now you're frustrated... because you wanted quick relief.

EX: Trainer making you lift heavy, asking for a loan someone wanting to teach you how to budget

But what if:

God is less interested in easing your pain  
and more committed to healing your life?

# **CONCLUSION**

**I want to ask a question...**

**Not a surface question—  
a heart question:**

**What kind of King do you want?**

**And be honest...**

**Not the church answer.  
Not the polished answer.**

**But the real answer.**

**Do I want a King who:**

- **Does what I want?**
- **Moves how I expect?**
- **Fixes things on my timeline?**

**Or do I trust Him...  
even when I don't understand Him?**

**So here's the real question:**

**Will you follow Him...  
when He doesn't meet your expectations?**

**(SLOW THIS DOWN)**

**They laid down palm branches...**

**A symbol of victory.  
A moment of celebration.  
It was temporary praise.**

**Everything looked good.  
Everything felt right.  
Everything made sense.**

**But just days later...**

**That same crowd—  
those same voices—  
that same city...**

**Turned on Him.**

**And while they were pulling back...**

**He was stretching out.**

**They were withdrawing their praise...**

**He was extending His love.**

**They were changing their minds about Him...**

**He had made up His mind about them.**

**They laid down palm branches...**

**But days later...**

**He stretched out His arms on a cross.**

**They gave Him temporary praise...**

**He gave them eternal salvation.**

**They praised Him for what they wanted...**

**But He gave them what they needed.**

**So don't let unmet expectations...**

**Turn into misplaced disappointment...**

**And cause you to miss  
a faithful King.**

**Don't let what didn't happen...**

**Blind you to what He's already done.**

**Don't let what you don't understand...**

**Make you walk away from what you know is true.**

**Because here's the truth:**

**He may not be the King you would choose...**

**But He is:**

- **The King who saves**
- **The King who sees**
- **The King who stays**

**And He is exactly...**

**the King you and I need.**

## **ALTAR**

**I believe there are people here...You're not far from God...You're just  
frustrated with Him.**

**And today...God is not asking you to understand everything...He's asking  
you to trust Him again.**

# PRAYER

This morning I want to pray for two groups of people, the first who don't feel far from God but are frustrated with Him.

God, I release my expectations...I surrender the version of You I created...

And I receive You as You are...King. Lord. Savior.Even when it's slow, even when it's hard, even when I don't understand...I **will follow you and I will trust you.**

Now there's a second group of people in the room we want to pray for. If you have never put your faith in Jesus (Gospel presentation)

if that's you on the count of three raise your hand....

Cheering !!!

In just a minute, the whole room is going to join you who raised your hand in a prayer, but we wanna make sure that we give you a gift and continue celebrating you. You can see there's a sign in the back of the room that says...???

Grant and Lex will meet you at that sign as people are headed out. If you came with someone today, who raised their hand, please make sure to go with them into the lobby to celebrate what the Lord has done.

## Prayer

Announce prayer team and dismiss