

PALM SUNDAY

REVEALING OUR DEEPEST MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF JESUS.

MARCH 28, 2021 / PALM SUNDAY / JOHN 12:12-19

Palm Sunday reveals our deepest misunderstandings of Jesus.

John 12:12-19 depicts the Palm Sunday seen from the vantage point of the crowds and disciples. Before this passage, Jesus miraculously raised Lazarus from the dead, gaining attention in John 11. John 12 moves to a new section in the book of the road to Jesus' death and resurrection. The crowds and disciples have mixed motives in their zeal for Jesus. Yes, He's a King, but a different kind of King. As we engage Palm Sunday, we see the misunderstandings the disciples and crowds had about Jesus along with our own.

READ JOHN 12:12-19

1. What's the largest crowd you have ever been a part of?
2. Hosanna means, "Save us." John 12:13 quotes Psalm 118:25-26. In comparing these two passages, what were the crowds and disciples hoping to be saved from as opposed to Jesus' purpose?
3. Like the crowds and the disciples, what expectations do people have about Jesus that are secondary to His purpose? Why do you think this can create doubt and confusion?
4. Jesus takes a donkey to ride on John 12:14-15, which quotes Zechariah 9:9. In these two passages, what makes Jesus different from kings the world would esteem as successful?
5. The Palm Sunday passage reveals Jesus as a King of gentleness. Scott Sauls says this,

"Jesus' gentle answer was bold and costly. His gentle answer included pouring his lifeblood and dying on a cross. Our gentle answer will be costly as well. We must die to ourselves, to our self-righteousness, to our indignation, and to our outrage." (A Gentle Answer)

What might that look like in our lives?

6. The Pharisees stand in opposition to Jesus and ultimately plan to put him on the cross. How does John 12:19, "...the whole world has gone after him..." reflect the purpose of Jesus's death and resurrection?
7. Like the disciples and crowds in John 12:16, what misunderstandings of Jesus have emerged in your life from the past year?

Reflect on the following two misunderstandings from Sunday:

- We expect Jesus to change our circumstances. He changes us.
- We want peace by power. Jesus offers peace by gentleness.

Jesus, prepare my heart to reflect on this Easter week. Help me to see the misunderstandings of You that divert me from Your purpose. May the Good News of the Gospel shift my attention to living out Your death and resurrection in my life.