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Palm Sunday: Who Did We Expect? (Matthew 21:1-11)

Palm Sunday is a day of contrast: Jesus is a King predicted, yet unexpected. He is accepted yet rejected.

To help clarify our expectations of God, ask these 2 questions: If the gospel "worked", what would it look like? What do we expect from Jesus?

#1 Jesus is a King who was PREDICTED

Matthew 21:1-6, 1 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.'" 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.

- Zechariah 9:9 is a messianic prophecy from 500 years ago.
- Interested in prophecy? View 55 messianic prophecies & fulfillments at Go2Cornerstone.com/55

#2 Jesus is a King who was ACCEPTED

Matthew 21:7-11, 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 to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna 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."

- Jesus deserves worship from those who know Him.
- They quote Psalms 118, "24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. 25 Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
- Jesus has done many wonderful things in our lives that we should praise Him for, but the greatest reason should always be the work He did for us on the cross.

#3 Jesus is a King who was UNEXPECTED

- The Israelites: expected a political hero.
- The Romans: expected nothing substantial.
- The Disciples: expected their loyalty would be rewarded in Jesus' new kingdom.
- Christians Today? What do we expect of Jesus?
- When we find ourselves most disappointed with God, God has not failed us, our expectations of God have failed us.
- Jesus will always do what is best for us!
- To reject the work that Christ comes to do, in favor of the work that we want Him to do, is to follow a false Christ.

#4 Jesus is a King who was REJECTED

Psalms 118:22, "22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

- The shouts of praise on Sunday would turn to "crucify Him" by the end of the week!
- And yet, the Lord humbles Himself to enter Jerusalem, just like He humbles Himself to help us.

A second Palm Sunday is coming when Christ returns:

Two chapters later Jesus said, "...you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" (Matthew 23:39)

Every day this week our staff will be posting a video devotional on social media to help us focus our thoughts on what Jesus did for us during "Holy Week".