

REALIGN TO SERVE

NOT WHAT YOU EXPECTED

Have you ever met someone who wasn't who you initially thought they were?

How does it make you feel when you realize they were different than you hoped?

Have you ever felt that way toward God?

Was there something you hoped He would do, but He didn't? What was it?

How would your life be different had He done that for you?

John 12:12-18—The next day, when the large crowd that had come to the festival (prior to Passover) heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ they took palm branches and went out to meet Him. They kept shouting: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!" ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written: ¹⁵ Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion. Look, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt. ¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first. However, when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. ¹⁷ Meanwhile, the crowd, which had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify. ¹⁸ This is also why the crowd met Him, because they heard He had done this sign.

Who is someone famous that you have travelled to go see?

What made you want to go?

Jesus was the _____ of His day. He was doing extraordinary things and He was becoming famous for it.

The Favorite Candidate

In election years, different candidates will come forward and say they have the answers for our country. People will go to the polls and vote for the person they best feel will bring our nation back into prosperity and peace. Whether you agree or not, we all have those hopes.

Israel was looking for that kind of hope. They were under the rule of Rome. Herod the Great, who ruled at the time of Jesus' birth, convinced Rome to declare him "King of the Jews." His son, Herod Antipas was the ruler at the time of Jesus' death. He wasn't much than his father. However, the idea of a Roman lording over Israel and proclaiming himself "King of the Jews" was a great insult.

What do you think the Jews hoped that Jesus would do for them?

According to John 12:12-18 (you read earlier), how did they prepare to welcome him into the city?

Palm Branches are symbolic of _____, _____, and _____.

Hosanna means: _____.

Donkey symbolizes: _____ **and** _____.

When an army rode into battle, the general would ride on a horse that was taller than the soldiers' horse. When a king rode into battle with the army, he sat upon the tallest horse they could find. This was a sign of his authority.

What was the hope of the people who welcomed Him to Jerusalem?

Why do you think Jesus chose a donkey's colt to ride on?

What was Jesus more concerned about?

What do you think was their greatest need—national security or eternal salvation?

When God doesn't answer your prayers, do you consider that He may be doing something greater for your benefit?

CONDITIONAL LOVE VS. UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Jesus came to Jerusalem during the festival of Passover. The whole city was in a mood to celebrate! When Jesus came in, many believed that He would take advantage of the time to assert Himself as their conquering king. Instead, Jesus was arrested and beaten. Then it all came down to this:

John 19:5-6— Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the temple servants saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" Pilate responded, "Take Him and crucify Him yourselves, since I find no grounds for charging Him."

John 19:16— Then he handed Him over to be crucified.

Some of the same people who had cried out to Him to "save" them, now joined into the mentality and cried out for Him to be "crucified!"

What had changed their mind?

Have you been guilty of expecting Jesus to "fix" your life and shrink in disappointment when He doesn't change your situation?

How did you react to Jesus when this happened?

What does it mean to have conditional love?

CONDITIONAL LOVE = Love given with _____; made or granted on _____

Do you put terms on your love for your family? (i.e. Kids have to act right, the spouse has to be in a good mood all the time....)

Do you think that God loves us in a conditional way?

Can you name the conditions that you put on God / Jesus?

When we neglect Jesus because of our disappointment, we are also crying “_____!”
We can punish Him for those times when He has let us down, but His love for us still drives Him to do what is necessary to redeem us back to Him.

PRAYER TIME

- Give Jesus praise for enduring the pain and brokenness of the cross to go through with God’s plan to redeem your sinful soul.
- Ask God to forgive you the times when you feel disappointed in what He is doing in your life. Admit to Him that you know He has your best interest in control. Place your trust in His plan.
- Ask God to help you to love others with the same unconditional love as He has for us.
- Pray for each other to have more trust in what God is doing in their lives.