

Palm Sunday

This Is Jesus

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

How we respond to unmet expectations reveals the condition of our hearts.

Key Scriptures

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." Matthew 21:6-11

"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They answered, "Crucify him!" "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" Matthew 27:22-23

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD. Jeremiah 29:11-14

Key Points

- **We want Jesus to behave according to our plan.**
- **We turn on Jesus when he doesn't live up to our expectations.**
- **We need a Savior to overthrow the kingdom of our hearts, and bring new life.**

Start talking.

- What are some situations where your expectations were not met?
- How did your response reveal the condition of your heart?
- How have unmet expectations impacted your relationships?

Start thinking.

- Read Matthew 21:1-11. Why didn't the disciples question Jesus' instructions? What had they learned to expect from his instructions?
- Think of the different groups of people in this passage. Disciples, "hangers-on", religious leaders, Jews, gentiles, etc. What were the different expectations each had on the long awaited King?
- Take a few minutes and review Matthew 21 – 26:46. How would you describe Jesus' actions and teachings during those days?
- How did those actions and teachings not live up to expectations?
- Read Matthew 27:22-23. What did the crowds response reveal about the condition of their hearts?
- Why such a harsh response?

Start sharing.

- How has God not lived up to your expectations?
- How has that played itself out in your relationship with him?
- Read Jeremiah 29:11-14. Does that passage bring comfort or frustration? Why or why not?
- Look back over your life; reflecting on ways (with hindsight) you can see where/how God was working. How can that help you trust in him for the future?

Start doing.

- What is that unmet expectation you have of God?
- Ask Jesus to calm and heal your heart; while helping you to trust him for the future.

Closing prayer.

Jesus forgive me for the ways and times I have pushed you away and turned my back on you. Help me to release my expectations of you. Draw me closer to you and create in me a new heart.