

What do you see in Jesus?

Matt. 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12

Palm Sunday 2010

Introduction

- Have you ever been misunderstood? {Middle School}
- **Theme:** The triumphal entry of Jesus was witnessed by many and from many of the same viewpoints that people have today but only one matters.
- **Response:** We must see Jesus for who He is and put our trust in Him in order to become God's children. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we must follow Him and walk as children of light.
- Open your Bibles to John 12

The Crowd on the way to Jerusalem

- Scripture
 - Matthew 21:8-9
 - 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!"*
 - Mark 11:8-10
 - 8 *Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields.*
 - 9 *Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"*
 - 10 *"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest!"*
 - Luke 19:36-38
 - 36 *As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.*
 - 37 *When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:*

- 38 *"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*
- John 12:12-13
 - 12 *The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.*
 - 13 *They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!"*
 - Viewpoint: He is a reason to feel good
 - First Exclamation: *"Hosanna!"*
 - ✓ Simple in Mark and John
 - ✓ Missing in Luke
 - ✓ Expanded in Matthew = *"Hosanna to the Son of David!"*
 - Second Exclamation: *"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"*
 - ✓ Simple in Matthew, Mark and John
 - ✓ Missing in Luke
 - Third Exclamation: Blessing of the King
 - ✓ Missing in Matthew (see expanded first exclamation)
 - ✓ Mark: *"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"*
 - ✓ Luke: *"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"*
 - ✓ John: *"Blessed is the King of Israel!"*
 - Fourth Exclamation: *"Hosanna in the highest!"*
 - ✓ Simple in Matthew and Mark
 - ✓ Missing in John
 - ✓ Expanded in Luke: *"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*
 - The Hallel (Common or Egyptian) sung as a welcome to pilgrims coming to the festivals
 - ✓ Psalm 113-118 (First verse of each with 118:25-28 tacked onto the end)
 - ✓ Psalm 118:25-26 = First and second exclamation
 - Their reaction is controlled by two elements
 - ✓ They are festival pilgrims gathered together for a celebration
 - ✓ They are amazed by the miracles He has done = Luke 19:37 ("miracles they had seen") and John 12:18
 - They "see" Jesus as a reason to feel good
 - Reaction: As long as He makes me feel good, I'll keep Him
 - This is the same crowd that will be yelling "Crucify Him" within a few days
 - ❖ The most common reaction to His entry into Jerusalem is the most common reaction today – Jesus is a feel good story that I will hold onto as long as it makes me feel good

The Religious Leaders in Jerusalem

- Scripture
 - Matthew 21:15-16
 - 15 *But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.*
 - 16 *"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?"*
 - Luke 19:39-40
 - 39 *Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"*
 - 40 *"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."*
 - John 12:19
 - 19 *So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"*
- Viewpoint: He is a danger and misleads the people
 - Jesus is widely accepted by the crowd including the children (younger generations)
 - The Jewish religious leaders...
 - ✓ ...are indignant in spirit (He shouldn't be honored as He is honored)
 - ✓ ...ask Jesus to rebuke His disciples (He shouldn't be followed as He is followed)
 - ✓ ...are frustrated, jealous and angry (He shouldn't be considered better than what we think or believe)
 - They "see" Jesus as a danger
- Reaction: We need to silence or get rid of Him
 - This is the group that will be responsible for arresting, trying and seeking His execution within a few days
- ❖ This hostile reaction to His entry into Jerusalem is the hostile reaction of today – Jesus is a danger and misleads people so He must be silenced and removed from influence

The Crowd in Jerusalem

- Scripture
 - Matthew 21:10-11
 - 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."*

- Viewpoint: He is a teacher of good things
 - Jesus is appreciated by the crowds for speaking with authority and giving them a simple spiritual life to follow (compared to the complexities of the religious leaders)
 - The Crowd...
 - ✓ ...appreciates His message (but not necessarily Him – no acceptance of His person)
 - ✓ ...is willing to accept Him as another one of the prophets (but not as the unique Son of God)
 - They “see” Jesus as a good teacher
- Reaction: We will try to follow His teachings
 - This is the group that will try to hold onto His teachings but not necessarily to Him
 - There is a great danger among believers to try to follow His teachings without following Him
- ❖ This inclusive reaction to His entry into Jerusalem is the inclusive reaction of today – Jesus is a good teacher and a good life can be found in following His teachings but nothing else

The Greeks in Jerusalem

- Scripture
 - John 12:20-36
 - 20 *Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast.*
 - 21 *They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus."*
 - 22 *Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.*
 - 23 *Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."*
 - 24-36
- Viewpoint: He is the Son of Man lifted up for our salvation
 - The Greeks come to Jesus in the same way that His ministry began in John 1 – “come and see”
 - Jesus’ message is...
 - ✓ ...you must be willing to follow Him (including being willing to give up your life) {25-26}

- ✓ ...those who follow Him will be where He is (Heaven) {26}
- ✓ ...there is judgment upon the world for their sin {31}
- ✓ ...that He is glorified, shown to be God, through His being lifted up (death on the cross) {32-33}
- ✓ ...that salvation, becoming sons of light, comes from putting your trust in the light (Jesus) {36}
- ✓ ...those who do not put their trust in Him, remain in darkness and will do so for eternity {35}
- They “see” Jesus as the one from God (Son of Man) who gives His life that they can pass from darkness to light
- Reaction: We will follow Him having put our trust in Him
 - This is what the disciples come to realize after His death burial and resurrection (John 12:16)
 - This is not acceptance of teachings alone, or a desire for Him when He makes me feel good; it is a commitment to follow Him, trusting Him to lead and change their lives
- ❖ This reaction of faith to His entry into Jerusalem is the reaction of faith today – Jesus is the Son of Man who has given His life for our salvation but that salvation is only for those who put their trust in Him

Response

- **Response:** We must see Jesus for who He is... and put our trust in Him in order to become God’s children. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we must follow Him and walk as children of light.
 - ✓ ... and put our trust in Him in order to become God’s children {Observers}
 - ✓ ...following Him and walking as children of light {Disciples}