

MAIN POINT

Jesus came not as a political victor but as One glorified through suffering. As His followers, we can trust that suffering for His sake will also lead to glory.

INTRODUCTION

What is the most significant event you have ever witnessed in person? What about in the news or on TV?

Did you understand the importance of that event in the moment, or did it take time to process what happened?

Palm Sunday was the day that Jerusalem's rightful King came to town. From this historical event, we can learn much about King Jesus. This event is so important to understanding who Jesus is that all four Gospel writers included it in their works. Though the event was attended with much pomp and circumstance, as the rest of the Gospel accounts show us, many of the crowds who received Jesus into Jerusalem also rejected and crucified Him a week later. The lesson for us is that we need to receive the Jesus who is, not the one we wish existed. Jesus did not come to clean house, but to clean hearts.

DISCUSSION

> READ JOHN 12:12-19.

When the people laid down palm branches and shouted "Hosanna!" what did they mean? What did they not quite understand about Jesus?

Have you ever misunderstood something about Jesus and needed to be corrected later? How did that correction come to you?

How were Jesus' plans in Jerusalem different from the plans the crowd had for Him? Why are all the missions that we want to send Jesus on infinitely less important than the one He came to accomplish? What are some examples of those missions?

Why is it so easy for us to get our ideal of Jesus confused with Jesus' actual mission?

Read Zechariah 9:9. Jesus' actions were an intentional fulfillment of prophecy. Look at texts like Isaiah 53; 50:6, Psalm 22:14-17; 41:9, and Zechariah 12:10. What did these texts predict about the coming Messiah? With all this evidence, why did so many people who were so familiar with the Scriptures miss Jesus?

How did the timing of when Jesus chose to enter Jerusalem point forward to the purpose for which He came? Look at Exodus 10-12 along with John 1:29-37. What is the connection between this Old Testament event and the Christian celebration of Easter?

APPLICATION

Read Luke 9:23-24. What might God be calling you to give up that you might gain from Him?