

FOLLOWING JESUS

John 12:12-19 Is the final week of the life of Jesus Christ.

Fun facts: There are 21 chapters in John-almost half of the chapters talk about this last week of Jesus' life on earth.

2/5's of the book of Matthew deal with it and 3/5's of Mark is dedicated to the last week.

My point is showing how much this last week meant to the disciples and what an impact it had on them.

In the 4 gospels there are 89 chapters. 4 chapters deal with His first 30 years. 85 chapters cover the last 3 ½ years of his life.

29/85 cover the last week of his life.

John 12:12-19

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival 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!" ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." ¹⁶ At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him. ¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, **went out to meet him.** ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. **Look how the whole world has gone after him!**"

Question: Who are You going after?

Title: Following Jesus

WHY A DONKEY?

A donkey was considered an animal of peace which is why the prince of peace chose a donkey. [donkeys were portrayed in Biblical works as symbols of service, suffering, peace and humility.] When a king came to wage war, he rode a horse. The only time Jesus will ride a horse is in Revelation. The donkey represented the reliability of scripture. 500 years before, Zechariah said your King is coming on a donkey's colt.

Palm Sunday in the Jewish Calendar was the 10th day of the month of Nisan or in our world would be April 6, 32AD. This was the day that Jewish families would select the lamb, and on the 14th day of Nisan they would sacrifice the lamb for the Passover.

Interesting that on this day the lamb of God is riding into Jerusalem on a donkey announcing himself to the city.

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt.”

You Must hear this: John records the event but Luke records what Jesus said during the event.

Luke 19:41-45 ⁴¹ Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴² saying, “If you had known, even you, especially **in this, your day**, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For days will come upon you when your enemies will close you in on every side, ⁴⁴ and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, **because you did not know the time of your visitation.**”

Jesus predicts the fall of Jerusalem. It happened in 70 AD.

Notice vs 44 “because you did not know the time of your visitation.”
Vs 42. “This is your day” What is he referring to?

He is talking about a prediction made by their own Jewish prophet Daniel. In Daniel 9, he gives an exact time for the coming Messiah. Daniel 9: 26-27 a Heavenly messenger says, “from the going forth of the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah, the prince, will be 483 years. Then the Messiah will be killed.”

Several scholars researched these scriptures for accuracy. Sir Robert Anderson, the head of Scotland Yards criminal investigation wrote a book about this prophecy called, “The Coming Prince”.

On March 14, 445 BC Artaxerxes Longimanus, a Persian monarch, told the Jews to go back and rebuild Jerusalem.

Then he counted from March 14, 445BC 483 years to find out what date it landed on. He took the old Babylonian/Jewish Calendar of 360 days, multiplied it by 483 of those years =173,880 days

So he went from March 14, 445 BC and counted 173,880 days and it came to **April 6, 32 AD 10th day in the month of Nisan! The day when Jesus told the disciples to bring the donkey.**

***IMPORTANT**John 12:16 **At first** his disciples did not **understand** all this. **Only after** Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him. HINDSIGHT IS _____20/20

They could not see with the eyes of faith, only the eyes of the natural.

Duet 11:18 “Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds, tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your forehead.

Scripture is more reliable than opinion

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

[Soren Kierkegaard](#)

Everyone has and had an opinion of who Jesus was. But only those with an experience confessed him. Don't worry if you have not got it all yet! Neither did they!

Some of our greatest Aha moments come years later

<https://reasons.org/explore/publications/articles/fulfilled-prophecy-evidence-for-the-reliability-of-the-bible>

Reflection revealed who Jesus really was. Most of the people were more attracted to Jesus than the pious religious priests of the day. They were looking for something authentic and real. They were fed up with stories and liturgy.

Religion says, “Work your way to God”. Jesus says, “I am the way to God”. John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The religion of human achievement is not the gospel at all. The gospel is divine accomplishment. Religion says YOU MUST DO. GOD says I have done

JOHN 12 ¹² **The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival 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!”**^[b] **“Blessed is the king of Israel!”**

Hosanna in Hebrew is ‘Na Hoshia Na’ (NA Hoe She hah nah) translated in English is ‘deliver us now’ ‘save us now’

This was a group of religious people in Jerusalem for a Passover festival. As a Jewish person there were 3 festivals you were required to attend; Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles.

This is when they celebrated the deliverance of their forefathers from the bondage of Egypt.

Every year they took the same route to Jerusalem, the same rituals, same routine, the same religious rhetoric.

Not unlike today, people want more than what religion has to offer.

When Jesus showed up it was like all heaven broke loose. They broke the practice of the predictable and started publicly professing the name JESUS

Jesus was a fresh aroma in a stale, stagnate, lifeless atmosphere.

Mark 12:37 The large crowd enjoyed hearing Jesus *and* listened to Him with delight.

KJV said, “the common people heard him gladly.” Some were glad, others were sad

In the beginning of His ministry, He operated in shadows as a shy son of a carpenter. However, as the news of His power and His claims to be the Messiah spread, people began to flock around Him. They were drawn by the excitement of His miracles and the uniqueness of His preaching.

By the second year of His earthly ministry, Jesus was drawing crowds of people everywhere He traveled. These crowds were with Him until He began to preach the message of extreme commitment as found in John 6. By the time Jesus reached the end of His ministry, the crowds were made up of those who were committed to following Him.

1. They had experienced Excitement.

¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

They were jacked about the miracles and the power they had seen Him demonstrate. Some in this crowd were genuine in their love for Him, others were there because of what they had seen Him do. People are still interested in Jesus for what they have seen! They only want the miracles and the excitement.

Others get excited because for the first time in their lives, they feel valued and useful.

Jesus came, untied the people to function in purpose. (HOWEVER) Just because Jesus set **people** free doesn't mean they followed him!

MARK IT DOWN! Just because the crowd was the loudest didn't mean they were the most loyal!!!

Sadly, most of those who cried Hosannah on Sunday shouted crucify him on Friday. Their loyalty was short lived. They did not know that the

incarnation was for atonement. They did not know that the birth of Jesus was also for the death of Jesus and ultimately the resurrection of Jesus.

At this great event, you will notice that the crowds are shouting and lifting their voices in praise to the Lord.

They know what He is doing, and they are certain that He has come to deliver Israel from the bondage of Rome. Therefore, they cheer Him and shout praises to God because of Him.

Sadly, they missed the entire significance of this event.

The reason Jesus came into Jerusalem was not just to ride on a donkey fulfilling a prophesy. The sole purpose was to go to Calvary. These people missed it all! This man was headed to the cross! It was the sole purpose in his existence.

There are many who enjoy the *miracles*, the *message* and the *Messiah* of the church, but they miss the fact that salvation does not come through anything else but a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus did not come solely to heal you, to feed you, to bless you, to teach you, or to fulfill a bunch of old prophecies to the people of Israel. Jesus came for the sole purpose of going to the cross and dying for the sins of man. He came to be the Savior of the world! Until you know Him in that relationship, you don't know Him at all- you know about him.

They shouted at His *Entrance* to Jerusalem, but they didn't understand that there was more to His story. Those who know Him know that there is a reason to shout and to praise His name!

They know He is worthy of honor and praise. However, those who do not know Him will always attempt to stop those who do know Him from glorifying His Name

YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN!!!

That's why Rev13:8 says he was the lamb slain from the foundation of the world." It was decided long ago from the counsels of eternity that

God the Father would make provisions for man after he sinned. From the moment Jesus was born, he lived in the shadow of the cross. He knew this day would come.

John was one who always stood by Jesus when everyone else left. He proved his loyalty by more than just his lips. Just because they loved the *miracles* does not mean they loved Jesus enough to follow him. Some are more concerned by what Jesus could do then why he did it.

Jesus was no longer concerned by what people said, but by how many of those people who stand with him when the crowd went silent!

We all have something to say but very few will stand with you. **Loyalty is more important than loudness!!**

2. They had experienced Enlightenment. Some were there shouting because of the radical teachings they had heard Jesus giving out. He was different and they were drawn to that.

Matt. 7:28-29 ²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law

There is still that crowd that flocks to the miracle worker. People are attracted to a new voice with a newer method!

Don't misinterpret what I'm saying. There is a time/place for miracles, the prophetic, the revival, the renewal meetings, and if you ask me the time/place is all the time! People are people! What's in it for me?

3. They had experienced Expectation. ¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, **went out to meet him.**"

Today is Palm Sunday. Today is the day we commemorate our Lord's triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago. For the disciples of Jesus, this was a day of great excitement and joy.

However, for Jesus, it was a day of disappointment and heartbreak. You see, this was the day that Jesus made it clear to all who saw Him just Who He was, his intentions and what was about to happen.

All through His life and public ministry Jesus had proven Himself to be the Messiah. He had fulfilled the prophecies, performed the miracles and He had told the Jews repeatedly that He was the Savior that they had been anticipating. However, they refused to believe His claims. This was the day when Jesus drew the line in the sand. When He appeared on the donkey, riding down from the Mount of Olives, there was no doubt as to what He was doing.

He was revealing Himself as the Messiah of Israel with a message to the multitudes. The King of Kings was making his arrival on a donkey not a chariot.

Jesus wasn't a democrat, republican, conservative or liberal. HE wasn't from Ottawa or Washington. He wasn't selected, elected. I don't think there is anything worse than politics in the church. It has caused such a great divide. **We lost some people because we refused to use the pulpit as a platform for politics.** Satan will use anything to cause tension, debate, and division.

Jesus was born a king appointed to serve and not be served. He is authority; therefore he doesn't have to command it or demand it. He is the great I AM from beginning to end! The King of all Kings! Lord of all Lords.

Those who know **Him** know that there is a reason to shout and to praise **His** name!

They know He is worthy of honor and praise. However, those who do not know Him will always attempt to stop those who do know Him from glorifying His Name

DO NOT EVER ALLOW ANYONE INCLUDING YOURSELF TO STOP YOU FROM PRAISING HIM