



Cross-Town

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Expectations In Jerusalem

Matthew 20:17- 19 As Jesus was about to go up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve *disciples* aside by themselves, and on the way He said to them, **18** "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, **19** and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up."

Matthew 21:9-10 The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Hosanna in the highest!" **10** When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?"

- About 8 months out, Jesus started to intro the fact that He was to die. He prepped the disciples
- Much of what He said was ignored or resisted by the disciples – they had their own ideas about who He was and what He ought to do for them.
- The disciples had plans and they were looking forward to him becoming King and what the would mean for them.
- Like the disciples, we have an agenda; things we want him to fix...everything except ourselves. Our plans rarely line up with his; our passions, thoughts, desires are not his. God has to prefect the "ministry of disappointment" in us.
- But our expectations need to be brought in line with His purpose, will & design;
- Christ is not about what we think God ought to do; we are His servants, we are to submit our lives to him every day. Our expectations are to be wound around His...what can I do to serve you?
- Hosanna – "save me"! The key to defeating the enemy is the degree of our submission to God. Dependence & obedience to the Father is our power for overcoming the devil. Submitting to God is the base of our power!

I. Those Who Go Ahead Of Christ; Matthew 21:9a The crowds going ahead of Him...

- Those who walk in front of Christ have an idea of where He is going and trust He will follow.
- They have their own expectations and expect Christ to follow them into what they are heading toward.
- We must not get ahead of Jesus and expect him to follow him in our agenda. He has his own direction it is the RIGHT way.

II. Those Who Follow Christ; Matt 21:9b ...and those who followed

- Those who followed did so like a buggy following a horse...the person in the buggy is directing where the horse is going
- We can be "behind" the Lord, but still try to direct, to steer him where you think He should go
- "Jesus, we'll follow you to the throne..." We're sure He is for us.
- LK 9 – 3 people offered to follow Christ
 - The first wanted to follow & Jesus told him He was without a place to dwell, foxes and birds have places where they rule; the people to whom He was sent – the Jews – refused to let him rule...He had not place to "dwell"; Jesus was warning him that He would lead him into rejection, persecution, and death. He was challenging the man's motive. Following Christ is not about filling our own desires or wishes.
 - PS 37:4 – the Lord will give you the "desires of your heart"; that's not the same as giving me what I want! He gives me the things that I should desire and seek after.
 - He will disappoint you everyday until you desire what He desires: either we desire what is WRONG or what is TOO SMALL
 - God's re-direction is painful because it corrects us; it crosses our purpose.

III. Those Bystanders: "Who is this?"; Matt 21:10 When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?"

- Who is Jesus to us? He is God Almighty!
- He is not just the One who saves you, who serves your purpose
- He is worthy, deserving of everything you have to offer.
- You are to follow Him according to his path – which means putting the Cross first
- The first encounter every day is to be the Cross – I'm not going to do what I want to do; we choose to serve Him first.

- He is not a “bell hop”, a servant. Sometimes He will serve you, deliver you, provide for you. He does so because He loves us.
- The only proper response to Christ is our lives.
- If Christ is your servant, you will never serve him properly. We can’t please him unless we first take up our cross and lay down all that our lives consist of.