

Discussion Questions for Palm Sunday Message

John 12: When Jesus Doesn't Meet Our Expectations

1. If you knew you had only one more week to live, how do you think you would spend your remaining time?
2. Read John 12:12-36. The crowd shouts, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!" What does this tell you about Israel's expectations for her Messiah (John 12:12-19)?
3. When the Galileans tried to make Jesus their king, He would not allow it (6:15). But here in chapter 12 He chooses to ride into Jerusalem publicly, and accepts the public acclaim. Why do you think He accepted the praise and recognition this time?
4. How do Jesus' declarations about His mission differ from the crowd's expectations (John 12:23-28)?
5. In His declarations, Jesus says that He is about to die. Looking at John 12:23-33, what could the people expect that Jesus' death would accomplish? (Especially John 12:23-24, 28, 31-32)
6. Which of these accomplishments of the death of Christ means the most to you, and why?

7. Jesus' last public message to His people is recorded in John 12:44-50. What parts of his message tell you that He is still lovingly reaching out to people who have rejected Him?
8. What are some ways in which you might follow the example of Jesus with people who reject you or refuse to listen to your testimony about Christ?
9. Jesus said that this was the time for both Jesus and the Father to be glorified (12:23, 27-28). What particular events were about to glorify both the Father and the Son (12:24, 30-33)?
10. How could these things, which on the surface seemed to be nothing but defeat and humiliation, actually glorify the Father and the Son?
11. Read 12:24-26 again. Then restate these verses in your own words, using "I" and "My" to personalize it. Which part of these statements strikes you the most, and why?