



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of March 29, 2026

John 12:12-21

12 The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” 14 And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, 15 “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!” 16 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. 17 The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. 18 The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.” 20 Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. 21 So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

1. Disappointment often arises when there is a disconnect between expectations and reality. Is it possible to align our expectations with reality and avoid disappointment? Explain your answer.

Four ways that Jesus is different than what we expect:

2. Jesus was a different kind of king. What was the significance of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey? Why was a “weak” king not what the people expected, but what the people needed? How does a biblical perspective on weakness (see 2 Corinthians 12:10) lessen our disappointment when things don't turn out the way we expected?
3. Jesus gives us a different perspective. How does Jesus change the way we view our money, our enemies, our goals, our life in general?
4. Jesus performs a different kind of miracle. While the Jews were understandably amazed that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, what is the real miracle that Jesus performs in every Christian believer? Why is this miracle more amazing than Lazarus' resurrection?
5. Jesus offers a different kind of peace. Through what means does the secular world seek peace? What kind of peace does Jesus offer and why is it not only different from the secular world's peace, but also infinitely better?
6. Jesus is different from any person, king, or god that the world has ever known or imagined. Therefore like the Greek worshippers in our passage (v.21), we must all simply want to see Jesus for who He truly is. What can a person expect to see and find when they seek after Jesus with all their heart and why will He never disappoint? (hint: focus on your expectations)