

Pins and Needles: The King We Want vs The King We Need

March 29 & 30, 2025

All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

Expectation: The crowd thought Jesus was coming to overthrow Rome and restore Israel's power.

Reality: Jesus was bringing a kingdom not of political power, but of peace, sacrifice, and salvation.

Matthew 21:1-11 | ¹ As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵ "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

BIG IDEA: Jesus doesn't always meet our expectations—He exceeds them in ways we don't always understand.

1. **EVALUATE** your expectations.
2. **TRUST** His **PLAN** over your own.
3. **SURRENDER** to His Kingship.

NEXT STEP: Choose the real Jesus today.

Further Study & Discussion Questions

Getting to Know You:

1. Have you ever had an expectation completely turned upside down—for better or worse? What happened?
2. When you were younger, what did you expect your life would look like by now? How does it compare to reality?

Quick Review:

1. What part of the message stood out to you the most?
2. The crowd in Jerusalem was expecting a military king, but Jesus came as a humble servant. Why do you think this caused such confusion and eventually led to rejection?

Digging Deeper:

1. Read **Isaiah 55:8-9**. God says His thoughts and ways are higher than ours. How does this shape the way we approach unmet expectations in our lives?

Isaiah 55:8-9 | 8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2. Read **Zechariah 9:9**.

Zechariah 9:9 | Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

This prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Why is it significant that Jesus chose a donkey and not a war horse? What does it reveal about His character and mission?

3. Read **John 6:26-27**.

John 6:26-27 | 26 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. 27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

Jesus challenges the crowd for following Him because of what He can do, not for who He is. How can this happen in our own faith journeys?

4. **Romans 8:28** says God works all things for the good of those who love Him. How does trusting this promise help us surrender our expectations and embrace God’s bigger plan?

Putting it into Practice:

1. In what area of your life are you struggling to trust God’s plan over your own?
2. What expectations do you need to evaluate and possibly surrender to God?
3. How can you practically show that you’re following Jesus for who He is, not just for what He can do for you?