

Scripture: John 12:12-25

Note: John account of Jesus entry has Jesus entering into Jerusalem as the crowds are yelling Hosanna blessed is it He that comes in the name of the Lord. Many had witnessed or heard of Lazarus being raised after being the grave for four days. Soon many in that crowd would be yelling crucify Him. What happened? We can learn a lot by the reactions of the crowds.

I. The common folk were excited and curious. (12-13; 17-18)

1. The excited declared Jesus King of Israel. (12-13) On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. Any man who can raise someone from the grave after he was dead for four days must be the Messiah we have all been looking for. They have in their minds a conquering hero; someone who will relieve their oppression and solve the problems of the flesh. Often folks come to church gets saved which is a miracle and a ready to shout praises to Jesus declaring Him as king in their lives. This is like emotionalism in the church. There is no deep heart change within the people. The response to Jesus is based on feeling and not on facts nor on a relationship.

2. There were the curious. (17-18; 20)

A. The ordinary Jewish people. (17-18) The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record. For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle. They are just not sure who this Jesus is so they go just to see. Sometimes broken people, hopeless people or people with addictions come to church just to see. Many folks who are depressed just searching for answers come just to see. **Life Recovery Bible:** *The recovery process can be like that for us- full of heated curiosity one week and hollow commitment the next. If we hope to benefit from our recovery program, our commitment must be wholehearted. A halfhearted commitment to recovery could leave us worse off than before we started.* That is easy to understand if you are looking at addiction recovery. You only get out of something what you put in it. Put the word sanctification in place of recovery. What we need in our lives is to understand the will of God. **James 1:5-8** *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.* A committed Christian studies their Bible and prays. The halfhearted Christian shows up periodically expecting God to fix their problems. They may be saved so in that respect they are not worse than when they started but halfhearted commitments lead to more disappointments because our hope in the Lord is diminished because we are double minded. We must apply our minds and expose our minds to the things of God so the Holy Spirit can teach us. We need to move from the curious to the committed. The curious on Palm Sunday probably yelled crucify Him just a few days later.

B. The gentile Greeks. (20-22) And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus. These folks were gentiles who came to worship but were not proselytes. They had never converted to Judaism. They just wanted to talk to Jesus. If this Jesus really was the king of the Jews how could he possibly overthrow the Romans and what could it mean to them.

3. The Pharisees saw him as a threat. John 11:57; 12:19 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.....The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him. The Pharisees actually wanted to kill Lazarus and Jesus because of the miracle. They saw people starting to believe Jesus was the Messiah. They also feared Roman retaliation against the nation. They were blinded by Satan and by their own hardened hearts. There are none as blind as those who will not look. Because of their religious bigotry they did not examine the evidence before them or search the scriptures to see if Jesus really could be the Messiah. Folks still have the same problem today. God can do some new things today.

4. The disciples were confused. (14-16; 23-25)

A. The disciples did not understand how Jesus was going to become king. And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt. These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him. Jesus had told them He was coming to Jerusalem to die. They had just witnessed Lazarus being raised from the dead. Peter had cried thou art the Christ the son of the living God and now Jesus is entering Jerusalem in the way scriptures said the Messiah would enter. For them Jesus was glorified when He arose from the dead.

B. Jesus revealed his death was the way to victory. (23-26) And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

LRB- *Instead of giving a king's acceptance speech, Jesus explained why he would have to die. He said in effect: "I must die so that I can bring new life to you. If you want this new life then turn away from your current way of living!" "This message can be as hard for us to accept, just as it was for the Jews of Jesus day. But in order to move through recovery- from addiction to freedom, from brokenness to healing, from guilt to forgiveness, or from isolation to intimacy-we must accept it. No longer can we embrace lives of escapism and denial. We must honestly embrace the painful realities in our life and patiently allow God's love to make us whole.* The new life begins with surrender after we stop making excuses for why it is OK for us to run from God. The new life is a life where we embrace the bondage of sin or circumstances, where we admit we are broken, where we admit the guilt which added together cause us isolate or shut out people we need to help us. We die to self so we can live for Him. I have found that serving God is the best way for God's love to make me whole.