

Preparing for Easter
Jesus and Fickle People – Why did the cheering stop?
April 9, 2006

“Go into the village over there,” Jesus said. “As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, ‘the Lord needs them....’” Matthew chapter 21 verses 2 & 3 (751)

The two disciples did as Jesus commanded. They brought the donkey & colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and Jesus sat on it. Most of the crowd spread their coats on the road ahead of Jesus, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Matthew chapter 21 verses 6 - 8 (751)

Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the crowds all around him were shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God in highest heaven!” The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. “Who is this?” they asked. And the crowds replied, “It’s Jesus....” Matthew chapter 21 verses 9 - 11 (751)

So when the governor asked again, “Which of these two do you want me to release to you?” The crowd shouted back, “Barabbas!” Pilate responded, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!” “Why?” Pilate demanded. “What crime has he committed?” But the mob roared even louder, “Crucify him!” Matthew chapter 27 verses 21 - 23 (759)

⇒ ⇒ Why did the people turn on Jesus?? ⇐ ⇐

1. Because Jesus came to give what we need, not what we want

- Repeatedly, Jesus clearly stated that his reason for coming was to “seek & save the lost.” *see Luke chapter 19 verse 10 (801)*
- This “mission statement” explained all that he did / didn’t do
- Jesus came to deliver us from our sin, not to deliver us from our problems or struggles in life. Jesus understood that our sin issue was the biggest problem we each have
- As a result of being delivered from my sins, Jesus said I would experience peace with God & peace inside of myself (*see John chapter 16 verse 33, p# 825*). He never promised to remove trouble & turmoil from my life

(over)

2. Because Jesus didn't pander to the popular, the wealthy or the well-connected
- Jesus repeatedly confronted the powerful
 - He rejected the religious system of his day and chose to work outside of it
 - Because of this, he was considered a heretic by the religious leaders
 - His teaching was considered "simplistic" & "uneducated" because he used stories & object lessons
 - He taught the common man
 - He taught women & treated them with dignity
 - He befriended non-Jews & the "notorious sinners" of his day
 - He did all this for one reason...to accomplish his mission of "seeking & saving the lost."

3. Because Jesus' teaching was counter-intuitive

Jesus taught that...

- we should honor the government
- only servants would be leaders in his kingdom
- what was inside was far more important than what was on the outside
- living by faith was far more crucial than living by sight
- faithfulness & obedience were far more important than comfort
- finishing is as important as starting
- heaven is a gift God gives not something I earn

4. Because Jesus insisted we come to him on his terms

- ***Jesus said, "Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell."***
Matthew chapter 10 verse 28 (741)
- ***Jesus said, "If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine."***
Matthew chapter 10 verse 37 (741)
- ***Jesus said, "If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine."***
Matthew chapter 10 verse 38 (741)
- ***Jesus said, "If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give it up for me, you will find it."***
Matthew chapter 10 verse 39 (741)
- ***Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."***
John chapter 14 verse 6 (823)

Next Sunday, Easter Sunday: How to Come Alive this Easter