

First, It CONFRIMS the Lordship of Jesus.

The crucifixion of Jesus was **not an accident** that just happened upon Him while visiting Jerusalem. Rather Jesus understood and embraced his calling to undergo so excruciating a death. In fact he deliberately **provoked** the events that would lead to his execution.

He understood Himself to be the Shepherd-King prophesied by Zechariah 9:9 and openly assumed this role during His triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Isn't in encouraging to think that NOTHING is a surprise to God? Review these events...

The finding of the donkey. The arrangements for his Last Passover Supper in the upper room. Judas' betrayal, Peter's three-fold denial, the disciples' deserting him, his deliverance to the Gentiles, his scourging, humiliation, and execution.

He announced all these things in advance. He thereby showed himself to be Lord over history.

The Second lesson is related to the first: Jesus doesn't always meet our expectations.

The Jews were expecting a king who would be a great military leader like David, who would throw off the yoke of Rome, and establish God's kingdom by force.

When we read some of the Old Testament prophecies, we can understand why they had such expectations; they weren't at all unreasonable.

Jesus is HUMBLE King...

THIS is radically different than people's expectations. When he rode into Jerusalem, he did not do so on a horse, the symbol of warfare and the choice of conquerors, as Pompey had done. He did not even pick a mule, the steed of Jewish kings like David himself. Rather, he chose a donkey, a pack animal, a lowly beast of burden, as his royal mount.

HONESTLY...

In our Christian lives, as we grow older, we all encounter situations in which God does not fulfill our expectations. Perhaps He doesn't bring a marriage partner into your life. Or maybe you find that your marriage hasn't lived up to your expectations. Or maybe you've been passed over for a promotion or a position you really deserved. Or maybe illness or tragedy has struck your life in an unexpected way.

When our expectations aren't met we try to take matters into our own hands...

The temptation is to do things your own way.

- You marry that non-Christian who's in love with you. You file for divorce.
- You grow resentful and bitter over missed opportunities.
- You give up confidence in God's love for you and no longer trust Him.

Jesus is Lord. He is under no obligation to live up to your expectations.

FACILITATOR: Ask these questions and work through the answers.

How do we respond to the question: “Why does God choose to give some a life of suffering and hardship, or disappointment and failure? (Thank can’t be people’s EXPECTATION)

So many people seem to think that if Christ doesn’t fit our expectations, then we can just reject Him, as the crowds in Jerusalem did..

Is the disciple is above his master?

Who is someone that has been in authority over you that led with a heavy hand?

- How did that effect how you responded to them?

Has there ever been a time when someone was in authority over you that led with an example of humility and gentleness?

- What was different about the way you chose to respond to them?

Christ is Lord! And He knows what is best.

How do you try to make Him fit your expectations?

What happens when what He gives is NOT acceptable to us?

- Do we reject Him? Does that lead us down a road of self-destruction?

Has there been a time when your faith has been like the people in Jerusalem?

- You hailed Christ as your king, just so long as He fit your image of what a king should be.

Can you make this your prayer?

“God, I acknowledge You as my King, my Lord, my Sovereign, and I receive from Your hand whatever You will for me!”

SPEND A FEW MOMENTS IN A TIME OF SHARING THE FOLLOWING...

Even though you thought you could see or predict the outcome in a situation... How has God still overwhelmed even that expectation?

PRAY: Specifically for who you will invite to Good Friday and Easter Sunday