

S.A.F.E. Homes



Strengthening Apostolic Families Everywhere



*“For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”
John 12:43*

Crowd Pleasers Or God Pleasers

The final days of Jesus' life before the crucifixion brought many mixed feelings among his followers. Just six days before his death he was in the home of his friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Word spread of his arrival and many people gathered to see the man who was raised from the dead and also to see the One who had performed such a great miracle.

While Martha served dinner to her guests, Mary took a pound of costly oil and anointed Jesus' feet. The disciples were appalled. Why was she doing such a ridiculous thing? “This oil could have been sold and the money given to poor people!” someone complained. But Jesus defended Mary. “She has done this in preparation for my death,” he explained. As the crowd dispersed, some believed on Jesus, but others stubbornly refused to recognize Him as the Savior.

The very next day, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, while people shouted “Hosanna to the King!” and waved palm branches. His own disciples did not really understand what was happening that day. The Pharisees looked on with scorn, while others shouted and praised God. Among the crowd that day were important rulers who believed on Jesus, but they were afraid to say so for fear that they would not be allowed back into the temple. How sad! Our focus verse states that they preferred the praise of men to the praise of God.

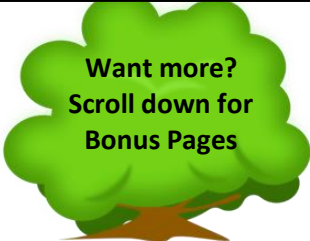
On those same streets of Jerusalem, less than a week later, a crowd gathered once more as they gazed upon Jesus. But this time they did not shout praises. “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” they screamed, as they led Jesus to the cross. Is it possible that some of those in the crowd that day had cried “Hosanna to the King!” earlier in the week?

It is so easy to go along with the crowd to keep from being “different.” But God's people are different! Scripture says that **“ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:” (1 Peter 2:9)**. God's people don't go along with a sinful crowd just to be popular. We have been chosen by God to shine His light in a dark world!

Family Prayer: *“Dear Jesus, thank You for choosing me to be different from the world. Help me to stand for You even when it goes against the thinking of the world. In Jesus' Name, amen.”*



Includes
Family
Activities



Want more?
Scroll down for
Bonus Pages

Looking



Inward

Let's play an old-fashioned game of "Simon Says." The leader begins by saying, "Simon says" and then name an activity (clap your hands, snap your fingers, pat your head, etc). The trick is to get someone to follow the command even when the leader does not say, "Simon says." The person who is caught going along without the proper command is out or switches places with the leader, whichever you prefer.

Let's talk

Have you ever been in a situation where the majority of the people agreed on something, but in your heart, you knew it wasn't right? Were you afraid to disagree because it wasn't popular? If you kept silent, were you relieved that no one knew, or did you feel bad that you weren't able to speak up? Discuss how this relates to the situation in our focus verse.

Throughout history there have been people who risked their lives to declare their loyalty to Jesus. Make a special effort this week to pray for people who live in countries where they are persecuted for their Christian beliefs. If you have a map or a globe, pinpoint countries which deny the deity of Jesus. Pray for the light of God's word to shine in these nations.

Looking



Outward

Additional Challenges

The Bible gives examples of both crowd pleasers and God pleasers. Take a look at a few of these.

Who gave in to peer pressure? Explain.

Matthew 27:20-24 Person: _____ Explain: _____

Luke 22:54-62 Person: _____ Explain: _____

2 Timothy 4:10 Person: _____ Explain: _____

Who stood for God in spite of peer pressure?

Daniel 1:1-8 Person: _____ Explain: _____

Hebrews 11:23-27 Person: _____ Explain: _____

Romans 8:35-39 Person: _____ Explain: _____

*Will you be strong in the face of peer pressure
and choose to please God rather than people?*

Puzzle Page

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

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