

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Following for a Lifetime

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "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.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Matthew 21:1–11 (NIV)

***We believe discipleship is a lifelong process of transformation, enabling us to become like Jesus by choosing his ongoing invitation to follow him.***

(Sunridge Discipleship Value)

- Jesus' Triumphal Entry. (Matt 21:1-11)
- From Cheers to Silence. (John 19:12-16)
  - Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ than they expected.
  - Jesus made people uncomfortable—especially the \_\_\_\_\_ leaders.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ entered the situation.
- Simon Peter Drifts. (Matt 26:35; Mark 14:54-70)
- The Myth of "Arrival." (Php 3:12-14)

1. Following Jesus means \_\_\_\_\_ through the \_\_\_\_\_ times. John 6:60-66
2. Following Jesus includes \_\_\_\_\_ but not \_\_\_\_\_. John 21:15-22
3. Following Jesus is measured by \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.

## TALK IT OVER

*Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.*

What's a game, activity, or experience from your childhood that you remember *very differently now* than you did back then?

In the message, we talked about how confusion is often part of following Jesus. Can you share a season when your faith didn't turn out the way you expected—or felt more confusing than clear?

John 6 shows that some disciples walked away not because of persecution, but because Jesus didn't fit their expectations. What expectations about Jesus, the church, or the Christian life have been challenged or reshaped for you over time?

Peter's story reminds us that following Jesus includes failure but not quitting. When you think about your own journey, what has helped you keep turning back toward Jesus after setbacks or failures?

The message ended with the idea that discipleship is measured by *direction, not speed*. What might it look like for you this week to take one small step in the direction of Jesus—especially if your faith feels slow, tired, or uncertain right now?



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of transformation, enabling us to become like Jesus  
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- Jesus' Triumphal Entry. (Matt 21:1-11)
- From Cheers to Silence. (John 19:12-16)
  - Jesus was different than they expected.
  - Jesus made people uncomfortable—especially the religious leaders.
  - Fear entered the situation.

- Simon Peter Drifts. (Matt 26:35; Mark 14:54-70)
- The Myth of "Arrival." (Php 3:12-14)

1. Following Jesus means staying through the confusing times. John 6:60-66
2. Following Jesus includes failures but not quitting. John 21:15-22
3. Following Jesus is measured by direction, not speed.

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