



Seven Days

Part 1: When Jesus Doesn't Meet Your Expectations



CONVERSATION GUIDE



SMALL GROUPS

Welcome to the series "*7 Days - The Week That Changed Everything*", where we will journey through the most decisive days in human history: Jesus' final week before the cross. A week that began with a cry of "Hosanna!" ended with shouts of "Crucify Him!" In those seven days, human expectations collided with God's eternal plan.

In **Matthew 21:8-9**, we see Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The crowd receives Him as King, spreading cloaks and branches, proclaiming Him as the Son of David. However, many of those celebrating expected a political Messiah, an immediate deliverer, someone who would fulfill their specific expectations. When Jesus did not meet those expectations, many were disappointed. This passage confronts us with a profound question: Do we worship Jesus for what we hope He will do for us, or for who He truly is?

Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God in highest heaven!"

Matthew 21:8-9 (NLT)



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. As we read **Matthew 21:8-9**, we see an excited crowd carpeting the road. Have you ever felt "excited" about God only because things were going well in your life? What happens to our faith when Jesus doesn't respond the way we expected?

2. *Isaiah 55:8 (NLT)* says: "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine." How does this verse help us when we don't understand what God is doing?
3. How can we distinguish between worship based on benefits and worship based on identity?

True faith does not worship Jesus for what He does... but for who He is.

MAKE IT PRACTICAL

Cultivating Genuine Worship:

1. **WORSHIP HIM FOR WHO HE IS, NOT FOR WHAT HE DOES.** Set aside time in prayer not to ask for things, but to acknowledge the attributes of God's character. Practice gratitude even in the midst of situations that haven't changed yet.
2. **TRUST HIS CHARACTER WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HIS PLAN.** Identify a situation you don't comprehend and intentionally surrender it to God in prayer. Replace anxious thoughts with declarations of trust based on His Word.
3. **CRY OUT IN THE WAITING WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT.** Set apart specific moments to cry out honestly before the Lord. Allow the process to strengthen your faith rather than weaken it.

PRAYER

"Lord, forgive us for the times we have tried to mold You to our expectations. Today we recognize that You are King, even when we don't understand Your ways. Help us to worship You at all times, to trust when we don't understand, and to cry out in faith in the midst of the waiting. Form in us a genuine faith that remains firm beyond our circumstances. In Jesus' name, amen."

TIPS

- Don't be afraid to admit your frustrations to God; **vulnerability is the beginning of a mature faith.**
- Don't measure God's love by the speed of His answers; **His character is constant even when His timing doesn't seem to be.**
- When you feel that Jesus didn't meet your expectations, **allow Him to adjust your vision instead of abandoning your faith.**



DEVOTIONAL

Jesus The King

<https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/1489>

