

What Do You Do When God Doesn't Do What You Think He Should Do?

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!' ¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵'Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt.' ¹⁶At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him. ¹⁷Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, 'See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!'
John 12:12-19

¹After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. ²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?' ⁴Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'
Matthew 11:1-6

1. Look For What He _____ Rather
Than For What He _____

Following Jesus For The Right Reasons

2. Fall _____ Don't Fall _____

3. Remember That _____ Are Not _____

Memory Verse

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’”
Isaiah 55:8-9

MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- ☐ Trust Jesus and begin to follow Him as my Lord and Savior for the first time today
- ☐ Memorize Isaiah 55:8-9
- ☐ Talk to God about any areas in which I'm experiencing expectation frustration, and ask Him to help me follow the steps we've looked at today to deal with them
- ☐ Get the most out of today's teaching by attending my Life Group this week



Invite a friend, family member or
co-worker to join you next week at ERBC!
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What Do You Do When God Doesn't Do What You Think He Should Do?

¹²The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors ¹³took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, 'Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel!' ¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: ¹⁵'Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt.' ¹⁶His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him. ¹⁷Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it. ¹⁸That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. ¹⁹Then the Pharisees said to each other, 'There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!'

John 12:12-19

¹When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, he went out to teach and preach in towns throughout the region. ²John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, ³'Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?' ⁴Jesus told them, 'Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— ⁵the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.' ⁶And he added, 'God blesses those who do not fall away because of me.'

Matthew 11:1-6

1. Look For What He Is Doing Rather Than For What He Is Not Doing

Following Jesus For The Right Reasons

3. Remember That God's Ways Are Not Our Ways

Memory Verse

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’”

Isaiah 55:8-9

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Discussion Questions - Week #3

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the weekend sermon, "Following Jesus for the Right Reasons," summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Do you plan on taking any practical steps this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED

In the message this weekend, we looked at the triumphal entry wherein Jesus entered Jerusalem using a surprising and memorable mode of transportation. When you think back on the vehicles you have owned or ridden in over your life, which is your most memorable and why?

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was marked by incredible humility. When you think of humility today, who is someone that comes to your mind, and how is their humility demonstrated?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read 1 Samuel 16:1;10-13 & 2 Samuel 5:1-5. The time between King David's anointing and appointing was roughly 15 years. Why do you suppose God waited so long to make David King?

Do you think it would have made a difference for David if God anointed him king the year before he was appointed, instead of 15 years?

What is the difference between waiting on God and doing nothing?

Can you think of an instance in your life where God made you wait for something while he did the work inside of you to prepare you to receive it?

How do you tell when God wants you to wait on Him, and when God is presenting you with the opportunity for which you've been waiting, and God wants you to act on it? Why or why not? ?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 12:5-10. What stands out to you?

In this passage, Paul tells us that he had a weakness that he asked God to remove, yet God chose to allow it to remain so He could reveal His great strength. What weakness in your life could God use (if you let Him) as an opportunity to show His strength?

How does Paul's boasting in his weakness compare or contrast with the successful leaders of our day?

What are ways we can deal with our feelings when God just won't do what we want Him to do?

In what ways are you allowing God to use both your strengths and weaknesses to benefit and expand His Kingdom?

Is there any practical application God might invite you to take from this passage?

FOR PRACTICE

One of the least popular spiritual disciplines in our day is the discipline of submission. When faced with the reality that God's ways are not our ways, it takes discipline to submit to His ways and trust in them instead of asserting our own. One of the ways we cultivate the discipline of submission is through our regular time in the Word, as we seek to hear, receive, and obey the Word of God. By submitting to the Incarnate and written Word, we surrender our perceived right to hold onto a grudge or bitterness and forgive following His model and command.

SHARE IT

Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for our mission partners in India. Pray that God would give them health to continue running the race He has called them to! Praise God that the Spirit is leading them in fruitful ministry among their Muslim neighbors. That said, the enemy does not give up territory easily. Pray for their protection and the Kingdom's continued advance.