

NOTHING COMPARES TO JESUS
APRIL 14, 2019

JOHN 12:12-15 (NLT)

The last week of Jesus' life was so important that John devoted over half of his gospel to writing about it. Matthew 2/5, Mark 3/5, Luke 1/3. It all began with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on the week of Passover. This morning, our focus will be on making some comparisons revealed by what took place when Jesus entered the Holy City while riding on a donkey's colt.

1. Jesus compared to religion. JOHN 12:13 (NLT)

- A. Jews were required to return to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, a celebration of deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Every year it was the same rituals, prayers and offerings.
- B. This year was different. The people gravitated to Jesus and shouted Hosanna or save us now. "Give us what religion can't."
- C. Jesus came as a breath of fresh air, and the common people heard Him gladly. He was more appealing to them than their religion. **MARK 12:37** – the common people hearing Him gladly produced friction between the old religious system and the new perspective Jesus offered. **MATTHEW 15:1-3** – His teachings appealed to tax collectors, prostitutes and adulterers, but highly offended the religious leaders. In **MATTHEW 23**, Jesus called them hypocrite's several times.
- D. Why the common people were drawn to Him:
 - Religion emphasizes the outward, but Jesus, the inward. He was more interested in what was on the inside, not outside.
 - Religion emphasized the negative, Jesus the positive.
 - Religion puts up walls, Jesus pulls them down. **EPHESIANS 2:13-18**
 - Religion says "work your way to God", Jesus says "follow me, I'm the way to God."
 - Religion says "we must do", Jesus says "It is done just receive from me and be transformed."
 - Jesus is more appealing than religion. **JOHN 12:19** – They were more attracted to Jesus than their religious system.

2. Scripture compared to opinion. JOHN 12:14-16 (NLT)

- A. People had different opinions about Jesus: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, a prophet, not from God, Beelzebub; all opinions!
- B. John quotes scripture: **ZECHARIAH 9:9 (NLT)** – What scripture teaches is more reliable than all the opinions of men. The donkey revealed His identity. Kings rode a donkey as a sign of peace, a horse as a sign of war, **REVELATION 19**.
- C. **LUKE 19:37-44** – and **DANIEL 9:25:26** – Sir Robert Anderson "The Coming Prince": 173,880 days – Spring 445 BC – Nisan 10, 32 AD or $7 \times 69 = 483$ years. People's opinions aren't reliable, God's Word is. **JOHN 12:16**

3. Following Jesus compared to observing Jesus.

- A. John mentions four groups.
 - Disciples – **JOHN 12:16**
 - Eye witnesses to Lazarus – **V17**
 - Those who heard from the eye witnesses – **V18**
 - Religious Pharisees – **V19**
- B. Four groups, same event, only one followed.
 - This is the day of our visitation

CONCLUSION: Is the God who orchestrated all these events worth following?