



Not as It Seems | John 12:12-36

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In John 12:12-36, we will see Jesus counter the misguided expectations of a crowd that believes God must serve them. By precept and by example, He will urge them to walk by faith and to make it their ambition to please the Lord.

1. **The crowd expected victory. Jesus came to bring peace (12:12-19).**
2. **Jews and Gentiles were preparing for the exaltation of a new Jewish King. Jesus came to be glorified through the shame of the cross (12:20-26).**
3. **The crowds were preparing to celebrate. Jesus was facing the agony of what He was about to endure for sinners (12:27-29).**

4. **The crowd expected an eternal Messiah. Jesus is that eternal Messiah, but His way to the throne of David was through the cross (12:30-34).**

5. **The Jewish crowd believed itself to already be religiously enlightened, but they needed to believe in Jesus alone as the light, while there was still time (12:35-36).**

Questions to Consider

1. What was behind the desire of the Jewish people for a political/military savior?
2. In John 12:15, John altered his quotation of Zechariah 9:9. Instead of commanding the people to rejoice, it says *Fear not*. What might be a reason or reasons for that change?
3. What is the significance of the words of Jesus in John 12:23?
4. God was glorified through the obedience and suffering of His Son. Can you think of instances when God was magnified in your life even as you experienced suffering? In what ways in the future might you glorify the Lord, even as you suffer for being obedient to Him?
5. How did Jesus bring about the judgment of this world, and what does it mean that "the ruler of this world is cast out" (12:31)?
6. What were some Old Testament prophecies that led to the expectation of an eternal king on the throne of David? How are they being fulfilled?
7. In what ways have you been tempted to be fickle in your own expectations of what God can or "should" do for you in a given circumstance? How are we called in this passage to respond when our expectations are not met?