

Unmet Expectations — The King We Wanted & The King God Sent

OPENING: ZOOMED-IN ACTIVITY

Key Insight:

Nothing about the picture changed.

What changed was how much we could see.

→ Palm Sunday truth:

People were looking right at Jesus... but seeing only what they expected.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:1–9 — The Triumphal Entry

- Cloaks on the road
- Palm branches waved
- Shouts of “Hosanna!”

Hosanna = “Save us”

Son of David = The promised King

MAIN POINT 1 — THE KING THEY EXPECTED

- A political rescuer
- A military hero
- Someone to fix their situation quickly

→ They wanted Jesus to change their **circumstances**.

Jesus came to change their **hearts**.

MAIN POINT 2 — THE KING WHO CAME

Luke 19:41–42 — Jesus weeps over Jerusalem

- Not angry
- Heartbroken
- They missed God’s moment

Jesus’ Mission (Luke 4:18–19):

- Good news to the poor
- Freedom for prisoners
- Sight for the blind
- Liberation for the oppressed

→ **Bigger than Rome — a victory over sin and death**

SLIDE: EXPECTATIONS vs REALITY

What They Expected	What Jesus Came to Do
Beat Rome	Defeat sin and death
Change circumstances	Change hearts
Rule a throne	Carry a cross

→ They wanted a crown... but Jesus came with a cross.

MAIN POINT 3 — FROM PRAISE TO DISAPPOINTMENT

- “Hosanna” on Sunday
- “Crucify Him” by Friday

Proverbs 13:12: Hope delayed makes the heart sick.

Key Truths:

- Disappointment doesn’t make us bad
- But disappointment can blind us

→ When expectations collapse, focus shifts to what God *isn’t* doing

→ And we miss what God *is* doing

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THEY MISSED

Luke 19:43–44

They didn’t recognize the time of God’s gracious visit.

→ They didn’t miss Jesus because He wasn’t there.

→ They missed Him because they were looking for the wrong thing.

FOR US TODAY

- We look for answers → God is building trust
- We pray for relief → God is working redemption
- We ask for escape → God offers transformation

→ We don’t want to miss the most important thing God is doing.

CLOSING ILLUSTRATION (ZIPLOC)

Expectation: It will leak

Reality: It doesn’t

→ Our expectations are logical — they’re just not always right.

THE GOSPEL

- The cross looked like failure
- Arrest looked like defeat
- Death looked like the end

→ What looked like everything falling apart

→ Was actually how God was saving the world

God is always doing more than I can see.

FAMILY TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Adults:

Am I telling Jesus what He should do — or trusting Him with what He’s doing?

Kids:

When I feel sad or confused, I can trust Jesus.

PRAYER PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK:

Every night, reflect on your day and pray one of these prayers.

For Children: “Jesus, thank You for loving me—help me trust You even when I don’t understand.”

For Teens: “Jesus, I don’t always get what You’re doing—but I believe You’re good, and I want to trust You.”

For Adults: “God, I don’t see everything You’re doing, but tonight I choose trust over control and rest in Your goodness.”