



Distorted Worship

MATTHEW 21:1-17

The worship of our expectations

21 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Say to the Daughter of Zion,

‘See, your king comes to you,

gentle and riding on a donkey,

The worship of our expectations

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

The worship of our expectations

“Hosanna in the highest!”

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The worship of our expectations

- ▶ Sometimes keeping our finger on the text obscures the text.
- ▶ It is easy to worship God because we want promises fulfilled more than God himself.

The worship of religion

¹² Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³ “It is written,” he said to them, “ ‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a ‘den of robbers.’”

The worship of religion

- ▶ It is possible to view worship as a means to personal gain.
- ▶ It is possible to worship so that we can have a sense of controlling God.

Leaders in true worship

¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

¹⁶ “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him.

Leaders in true worship

“Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read,

“ ‘From the lips of children and infants
you have ordained praise’?”

¹⁷ And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany,
where he spent the night.

Leaders in true worship

- ▶ The beauty of brokenness.
- ▶ The innocence of implicit trust.
- ▶ The uncontainable energy of authentic worship.

To Go . . .

- ▶ Is your perception of Jesus based on who He is or what you want him to be?
- ▶ Do you worship Jesus or worship worship?
- ▶ How can we be more like the children that Jesus praises?