

From Cheers to Jeers: The Triumph and Tragedy of Holy Week

Matthew 21:9-11

I. Introduction - Are you ready for Easter?

1. Holy Week is a week of complex emotions and responses

II. Triumph: The Entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:9-11)

1. Preparation and Fulfillment of Prophecy: Zechariah 9:9
2. The Crowds' Response:
 - a. "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9).
 - b. "Hosanna" means "save" or "save now"
3. Political and Religious Implications:
 - a. Riding on a donkey symbolized humility and peace.
 - b. Crowd's expectation: Jesus would overthrow Roman oppression and establish the kingdom of God on earth.
4. The Pharisees' Response
 - a. "Teacher, rebuke your disciples" (Luke 19:39).

III. Tragedy: The Rejection and Crucifixion (Matthew 27:21-26)

1. What a difference a week makes!
 - a. Beginning of the Week: Joyful Welcome and Messianic Expectations.
 - b. End of the Week: Rejection, Condemnation, Betrayal
2. The fickleness of the crowd.
 - a. Hosanna to Crucify
 - b. Expectations vs. Reality
 - c. Influence and Manipulation
 - d. Spiritual Blindness

IV. Conclusion: Lessons to be Learned

1. Jesus was rejected for many reasons:
 - a. Political Motives; Misunderstandings of His Mission; and Hardness of Hearts
2. We must guard against rejecting Jesus through:
 - a. Disobedience, Doubt, and Indifference

Action Point: Let us examine our own hearts and actions while we commit to following Jesus faithfully, even when faced with opposition or rejection.