

Sermon Reflections

Keeping the Faith: The King We Didn't Expect (Matthew 20:29 - 21:11)

Summary: Unmet expectations can rattle our faith. How can we keep our faith from cracking?

1. See His Help Come to the Needy (20:29-34)

- What differences do you notice between the crowd's expectations and their King's?
- The most important Person on the most important mission in history willingly interrupted His trip for two needy men, who had more "sight" than all those around them.
- What Messianic title did the blind men ascribe to Jesus, which was much clearer than the vague title of "prophet" that the crowd would soon use to describe Him?
- What can we learn from this about our own busyness and focus on our jobs?
- What needy people around you — who are your neighbors (c.f. Luke 10:25–37) — should you be interrupting your daily routine to serve?

2. Know His Word Will Prove True (21:1-7)

- How did Jesus challenge the expectations of the crowd on Palm Sunday?
- Various opponents of biblical Christianity deny that Jesus of Nazareth claimed to be God the Son. What can we learn about Jesus' self-proclaimed identity by His example in the Triumphal Entry?

3. Realize Your Faith Can Be Fickle (21:8-11)

- What can we learn from the example of the Jerusalem crowds about the reliability of popular opinion?
- What can we learn from them about the correct basis for our expectations?

Closing Thoughts:

1. When doubts arise, the problem is with you, not with our Lord's Word or promise. Doubts show that *your* thinking has changed. Be vigilant for yourself (1 Tim 4:16) and the brethren.
2. When doubts arise, go back to what is sure and unchanging — God's Word.
3. When doubts arise, cry out to your King. Don't give up or let Him go until He blesses you (c.f. Gen 32:26).

...but they cried out all the more, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" And stopping, Jesus called them and said, "What do you want me to do for you?" They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened." And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.

Matthew 20:31b-34 (ESV)