

3. Humanity Reimagined

John 12:35-36 NLT - 35 Jesus replied, "My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. 36 Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light." After saying these things, Jesus went away and was hidden from them.

Jesus saw humanity as it could be, as part of the Kingdom of God, and calls us to be Children of the Light. But His future looks different than what others expected. It is filled with peace, not war, with love and does not hate, and with gentleness not violence.

What is one place you long to see the light of God's kingdom shining more brightly? What would it take to see that happen?

WRAP-UP

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to bring about God's promised future in a way nobody expected. He was bringing freedom, but not from Rome. He was freeing us from sin and death by sacrificing himself on the cross. But He knew that the victory would be complete in His resurrection, and He comforted his followers when He told them that He had overcome the world. Are we willing to change our expectations to see God's kingdom ushered in through the cross and resurrection?

MEMORY VERSE

I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark. - John 12:46 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life.

Challenge- Continue reading John this week in chapters 12 -13.

"Expectations" **Believe and Have Life #6**

INTRODUCTION

As we continue in John's Gospel, the people have now seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the grave. Surely, they thought that this was the pinnacle of his ministry, what more could he do? By this time many had come to hope that Jesus was their promised "warrior king" come to free them from Roman rule. The religious leaders were expecting to arrest and kill Him before that happened, and the disciples were just plain confused. But Jesus was going to shatter their expectations with what was about to happen. They would need new "lenses" to see what God was doing through the cross and the resurrection.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing that has happened in your life that you just didn't see coming?

Key Passage

John 12:31-32 NLT - 31 The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. 32 And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What would Jesus do?

John 12:14-15 NLT - 14 Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: 15 "Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt."

John tells us that Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy. Undoubtedly the Jews knew that prophecy and longed for its fulfillment.

Zechariah 9:9-10 NLT - 9 Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey--riding on a donkey's colt. 10 I will remove the battle chariots from Israel and the warhorses from Jerusalem. I will destroy all the weapons used in battle, and your king will bring peace to the nations. His realm will stretch from sea to sea and from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth.

Jesus was ushering in the future promised by Zechariah 500 years earlier. What does the king promise to do in Zechariah 10:10? What in this verse hints that the promise is not only for the Jews?

There were probably many people expecting to see their deliverer-king arrive and remove the Romans. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey it looked like that time had come.

John 12:12-13 NLT - 12 The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors 13 took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD! Hail to the King of Israel!"

Psalms 118:25-26 NLT - 25 Please, LORD, please save us. Please, LORD, please give us success. 26 Bless the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

When the crowd cried "Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord", they were quoting from Psalm 118. What else did that cry imply about their expectation of Jesus (v. 25)?

2. Judging this world, Casting out Satan

It is easy to allow our perspective to be influenced by the world around us. And equally easy to have it swayed by our own desires and expectations. Consider the nation of Israel in Jesus' day. They had been subjected to Roman oppression but knew there was a promised Savior in their future. They were expecting Rome to be overthrown in perhaps a violent confrontation to deliver them. But instead, Jesus was preparing for a trial.

John 12:31-33 NLT - 31 The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. 32 And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." 33 He said this to indicate how he was going to die.

Ephesians 2:2 NLT - 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil--the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

The Greek term used here for judging is *krisis*. It refers to a trial or decision especially concerning justice, and injustice, right and wrong.

What is Satan's role as identified by Jesus? What is it that gives Satan that authority (Eph 2:2)?

In the heavenly trial about to take place, Satan will be judged, and the verdict is that he no longer holds the power or influence in this world that he once had.

When did Jesus say He would draw the world back to Himself, and by what means?

The battle that the people expected would not be fought on earth but in the spiritual realm.

Ephesians 6:12 NLT - 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Hebrews 2:14 NLT - 14 Because God's children are human beings--made of flesh and blood--the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.

What does Hebrews tell us is the only way to break the power of the devil and death? Bet nobody saw that coming. They had to remove the political lens of the warrior king as their deliverer and put on the lens of the suffering servant who died to deliver them from the power of death.