

Miss understanding

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, remembering Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem. The crowds welcomed him with excitement, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna," which means "Save us." They believed Jesus was the long-awaited king who would rescue them from Roman rule and restore their nation. While they were right that Jesus came to save, they misunderstood how that salvation would come.

As the week unfolds, the mood shifts dramatically. The same crowd that praised Jesus on Sunday cries "Crucify him!" by Friday. This change did not happen because Jesus failed or changed, but because he did not meet their expectations. Instead of leading an uprising or seizing power, Jesus taught humility, spoke of service, and pointed toward suffering and sacrifice. When he did not fit their hopes, admiration turned into disappointment and rejection.

Throughout the week, we see different groups had their own expectations. The crowds wanted a political saviour. Religious leaders, threatened by Jesus' authority and influence, wanted him silenced. Even the disciples struggled to understand his mission, hoping things would continue as they were. Yet behind all of this, God's plan was unfolding exactly as intended, as foretold by the prophets. Scripture's spoke of a coming king who would be humble, a servant who would suffer, and one who would ultimately bring true freedom and life.

Jesus' choice to enter Jerusalem on a donkey carried deep meaning. Unlike a king riding a war horse, symbolizing conquest, a donkey represented peace and humility. Jesus was declaring that his kingdom would not come through force, but through gentleness and sacrifice. The crowd, focused on their own expectations, missed this message.

The people longed for freedom from Roman oppression, but Jesus came to bring freedom from sin and death. They desired an earthly

kingdom, but he came to open the way to an eternal one. Their misunderstanding reveals how easily human expectations can obscure God's greater purpose.

Palm Sunday also invites personal reflection. Like the crowd, we often welcome Jesus when life goes well or when he meets our expectations. But when life becomes difficult or confusing, our trust can falter. The story challenges us to consider whether our faith depends on circumstances or rests in who Jesus truly is.

As we journey through Holy Week, we are called to examine our own hearts. Will we follow Jesus only in moments of joy, or also in times of uncertainty and pain? True faith means trusting God's ways, even when they differ from our own, and remaining faithful through every season.