

Valleys Family Church Sermon 25th March 2012

Fraser Keay

John 12v12-19: The real Jesus divides opinion

A. Four types of reactions to Jesus when he enters town.

Reading from verse 1

Huge crowd

Passover festival

Lazarus alive and well after being dead for several days (not kept alive by CPR for 74 minutes like footballer Fabrice Muamba). 'Whole city' was stirred (Matthew)

Reaction to Passion play?

- 1.The crowd praised him (but didn't get it) v12, 17, 18
- 2.The disciples (but sort of got it) v16
- 3.The Pharisees turned green (and hated it, i.e. Jesus) v10-12, 19

"When Jesus enters situations he either makes people glad or mad."

- 4.[The donkey just did what it was told! v14]

Examples

1. Attending church sometimes (especially at Christmas etc but not understanding who Jesus really is).
2. Closer to Jesus than some others but still seeing him as more historical than alive.
3. Not seeing Old Testament as relevant today.
4. Family / friends / work colleagues getting annoyed or angry with you because Jesus is now in your life and so is now in their situation too.

B. Three applications

1. The crowd and the disciples: use your brain.
 - a. Do Alpha etc if you're exploring Christianity. Think. Ask Qs.
 - b. God's Word not just feelings. Spirit and Word. Good bible preaching / small group study etc and encountering the Spirit. Teaching and prophecy. Preaching / testimony and healing.
 - c. With your spirit but also your mind (1st Corinthians 14v14-20).
 - d. God is a good Father who wants to teach us stuff. "Endure hardship as discipline." Don't be discouraged or treat hard situations light-heartedly (Hebrews 12).
2. The disciples: dealing with opposition. Your commanding officer gives you all your supplies: God's Spirit and Word to comfort (strengthen)
 - a. Be ready for hassle 15v26-16v1 [1st Thessalonians 3v1-5 and 1st Peter 4v1-6]
 - b. You are not an orphan 14v18
 - c. God's peace overcomes fear 14v1 16v23

"Peace is not the absence of trouble but the presence of God."

d. Respect and calmness towards non-believers (1st Peter 3v15)

3. Next time it will be a horse.

- a. Jesus came as the humble King (simple donkey)
 - b. He will return in a far different way (Revelation 19v11-16)
 - c. Everyone will stand before God / Jesus (Revelation 20v11-15)
- Q. Are you ready?

C. How did Jesus react to the City's reaction? (Luke 19)

- a. Receives praise. He is the King.
- b. Sad that people of Jerusalem do not get it at all.
- c. [Within a few days 'the crowd' was baying for his blood]
- d. Prophesies the fall of Jerusalem to the Romans (40 years later)