

*5 2 W E E K S*  
*O F G R O W T H*

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*Give it a Year*

*Week 03*

# WEEK 03



**Luke 19:39-40**

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“Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples!”

“I tell you,” He replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.””

Have you ever felt so excited that you simply could not contain yourself? Maybe it was the arrival of your 1stchild. Maybe it was an acceptance letter to a college. Maybe it was getting that dream job or meeting your spouse or opening a present on your birthday. There is an excitement that simply cannot be contained. The downside is that this great level of excitement is often short-lived, and reality begins to set in. There are the sleepless nights of parenthood, the college exams, the long hours at work, the stress of planning a wedding, or that birthday present breaks.

Often times our expectations versus our reality are different.

As Jesus was making His way to Jerusalem, to celebrate the Passover, a large crowd formed and people were spreading their cloaks on the road, like a red carpet on a celebrity runway. They took palm branches and shouted:

“Hosanna”

“Hosanna to the Son of David”

“Blessed is The King who comes in the name of The Lord”

All these people are shouting for joy and excitement and there was so much energy in the air. The Pharisees wanted Jesus to quiet the crowd and Jesus said in Luke 19:40 “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out”. He’s basically saying, even if I could, I couldn’t. The energy was so awesome and so thick and so palpable. Their excitement simply couldn’t be contained. The Messiah was finally here, and the crowd of people felt like their pain and suffering, and oppression was going to end.

However, their expectations of what they wanted in a Messiah were very different from the reality of Jesus. Their joy was short-lived when they realized that Jesus was not going to do what they expected. Five short days later, the same group of people that shouted “Hosanna” began shouting “Take Him away. Take Him away! Crucify Him!” (John 19:15).

Their expectations versus their reality were different and that overwhelming joy turned to disappointment.

Often times our expectation of what we want Jesus to do in our lives is very different than what Jesus wants for us. Our prayers can become about the things that we want and when we want them and how we want them done. And if He doesn’t do them, then we’re left angry and upset and disappointed.

Truth be told, we are all guilty of this at one point or another. There is a constant battle going on between our flesh and our spirit. The things that Jesus wants to do in our lives is often very different than we expect. Often times when Jesus enters our situation, He creates a beautiful disruption much like this entrance into Jerusalem. And most likely, we aren't prepared for this disruption and definitely didn't see it coming and we get angry and frustrated and discouraged.

But, as we grow our relationship with Jesus, we can begin to trust Him and His character. When we trust Him, we begin to be more flexible to disruptions and open minded to all that He may be wanting to do in our lives. When we become more open minded, He begins to reframe our perspective. When He reframes our perspective, we begin to see that His plans are always better, and He is always worthy to be trusted in every area of our lives. And when He is trusted in every area of our lives, then there is contentment, and our expectations are in Him alone and all that He has for us.

READ:

Luke 19: 28-40

John 12: 12-19

REFLECT:

- Think back when you first made the commitment to follow Jesus. What emotions did you feel?
- Is your expectation of what you wanted Jesus to do in your life different than the reality?
- How can you begin to surrender to God's plans for your life and let go of your plans for your life?

PRAYER:

Father God, we thank You that Your plans are better than our plans for our lives. Lord, this week, help me to surrender to You and all that You are wanting to do in me. Create in me a clean heart. Refresh my Spirit. Help me to stay focused on You and not on my desires in this world. Open my eyes to the beautiful contentment found in You alone. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.