

Designer Jesus Palm Sunday 2025

Luke 19:35-46—I want to talk to you about their Savior not The Savior, not yet anyway, or better their *designs on The Savior*.

1. They had their own designs on how they wanted Jesus to be, and the real Jesus didn't fit their model.

--VV. 35-44--Designer-Jesus was going to ride into Jerusalem in glorious fashion, so, when the real Jesus sends the disciples to pick out a "steed" what He picks is disappointing.

--Not that kings didn't ride donkeys, but they did it in times of peace, and the people didn't want peace, they wanted war.

--Jesus comes riding in a small donkey looking like, as one commentator said, Sancho Panza! (sidekick and sort of comic relief to Don Quixote)

--Designer-Jesus turned into disappointing-Jesus – disappointed because He didn't do what they wanted.

--Jesus wasn't there to sell Himself—He wasn't there to sell anything. He was there to purchase us for God!

We're going to find that Jesus will not always do we want Him to do or be who we want Him to be, but He will always do what we need Him to do.

--The problem for them and us is that we often don't know what we need.

--We should be taking our cues from Jesus and not the other way around.

--Riding in on a donkey looking like Sancho Panza is what they needed Him to do—

--Their problem wasn't the Romans their problem was that they were in rebellion against the God of the universe and needed peace, so, He came bringing God's peace.

To be sure, Jesus knows how to ride in: **Revelation 19:11** – it is because He will be riding in like that someday that we needed to Him to ride in like He did that day.

2. Designer-Jesus was supposed to be there to attack their oppressors, but the real Jesus was there to attack their religion.

--That's what the real Jesus does! He's not here to straighten others out, He's here to straighten us out.

--He's here to give you a thorough going over, to weep over you (if necessary) and drive out of you the stuff that He disagrees with.

--Expect Him to come here and act like He owns the place, because He does!

--**VV. 45-46** – this is nothing short of a miracle; the donkey He rode that day didn't throw Him.

--By all rights, riding an unbroken donkey into a crowd waving palm branches, throwing their cloaks down, shouting and singing and flapping their arms should not have worked!

--The fact is that it did work and worked well is nothing short of a miracle, and this next event was a pure miracle as well.

We miss this next miracle because we don't understand the scope of what's taking place.

--Jesus cleared the temple, what does that mean? A chapel, a parking lot? He cleared the court of the Gentiles. How big was this thing?

--Herod's Temple covered 40 acres; the place where only Jews were allowed was approximately 6 to 8 acres, leaving 32 to 34 acres for the court of the Gentiles.

--Passover was a massive event for Jerusalem; literally 10's of thousands people would descend on a city of about 40K swelling its size many times over.

--Every able-bodied Jewish male (plus their family) had to be in Jerusalem for Passover

--We don't know what the actual population increase was but we do know an approximate number of animals that were being sold in the Temple and being sacrificed.

--Josephus tells us that a few years after the time of Christ they sacrificed something north of 255,000 animals during one Passover week!

--255K+ animals moving through the Temple courts in a week plus entire families moving through buying those animals) including the people selling the animals plus the money changers and other = a real melee and cacophony; not to mention—can you imagine the smell?!

--Jesus, by Himself, clears 32-34 acres with all of these people and all of these animals, He turns over all of their furniture—this nothing short of a miracle.

How did Jesus do that? I have a profound answer for you: He's the Son of God!

--Why did He do that? is the better question for us to consider.

--At the risk of stating the obvious, do you go to a feed lot for your quiet time? Do you go to the flea market to worship the Creator?

--The Temple was the soul of Israel; their heart—again, can you imagine the smell?

Their design for Him was to relieve them of the foreign oppressors and social injustices, we have a similar design on Jesus today—"come and fix this mess and catch all the transgressors."

--I Peter 4:17 -- If Jesus were to come to America today, He wouldn't be going to Washington or Austin or visiting political powers—He would be coming to our churches.

--The world was in chaos in Jesus' day because its soul and heart was in chaos.

--Until we get it right here, we can have no hope of it becoming right out there.

Something was badly wrong there on the Mount of Olives: the people were excited and rejoicing and hopeful and quoting Scripture and praising a Savior, but *The Savior was weeping and angry.*

--Who was right? Jesus or the majority?

--This same majority was going to kill The Savior in less than four days.

How could they get it so wrong? The same way we get it wrong today.

--They had their designs on Jesus: He was going to save them from the Romans, from oppression and social injustice.

--He was going to approve of what they approved of and disapprove of what they thought needed to go—why wouldn't they praise Him?

--He was going to fix what they agreed needed fixing and He was going to leave alone the things that they cherished.

--He was going to make them prosper and He was going to bring them peace, but on their terms—why wouldn't they praise Him?

3. Because of their designs on Jesus, He wept for them.

--Do you have designs on Jesus?

--Is the Savior weeping for you--for us today?

It is shocking how popular Jesus is in our western culture—We have the largest churches in the history of the church with larger memberships than have ever attended church since the day Jesus resurrected.

--Sounds like good thing but where is the affect? Jesus started with less than a dozen disciples and 120 followers gathered in the upper room and they turned their world upside down.

--Today we have 133 million involved in our churches but where's the effect?

--Today, the church has everything it ever wanted: biggest buildings, biggest budgets, biggest memberships, greatest influence, but where is the effect?

--The evidence seems to demonstrate that though we are bigger than we've ever been, that most are gathered around Jesus for the wrong reasons; its Palm Sunday every Sunday.

--Just like they did on Palm Sunday, Jesus is weeping over the vast majority them.

--Today, just like on that Palm Sunday, Designer-Jesus draws big crowds, evokes songs of praise (the Christian music industry takes in nearly a billion dollars of business annually?) — where's the effect?

--Where's the life change? Where's the repentance that leads to soul searching and lives changed as a result?

--It's lamentable isn't it? That's exactly how Jesus felt.