

appnotes

DAY 1 READ MATTHEW 21:1-13

1

Great expectations can lead to great disappointment. Like when you hope the popular guy will ask you to prom or that your parents would surprise you with a car on your 16th birthday. The Jewish people of Jesus' day had great expectations. They expected a king who would overthrow Rome and set up a kingdom. But ours is a God of the unexpected! He is the God who used a shepherd to kill a giant. A God of the unexpected! So Jesus, God's Son and the Promised Messiah, entered Jerusalem in the last week of his human life, in an unexpected way—riding a borrowed donkey instead of a king's stallion. He is the God who chose to sacrifice His Son for us. Who could imagine such love and sacrifice for those so undeserving? Only ... our God of the unexpected.

DAY 2 READ MATTHEW 21:28-32

2

Talk is cheap. Jesus' message to the chief priests and elders of the Temple was "Don't just say it; do it." They studied the Law and knew all of the right religious answers. In fact, they could recite the Law from memory! But they were like the son in today's parable who told the father he would go and work in the vineyard, but he never did. They were talkers, not doers. Jesus wants us to follow the pattern of the second son and DO what God asks. The priests and elders? Well, they certainly could talk the talk, but choosing to walk the walk evaded them. Jesus was about to die for those who were willing to admit they fall short. Which is good news for us because we all fall short.

DAY 3 READ MATTHEW 26:1-5 & 14-16

3

Astigmatism: a distortion and blurring of vision. Judas, the chief priests, and the temple elders had a severe case of spiritual astigmatism. Judas followed Jesus through the towns and countrysides of Judah. He watched Jesus heal diseases, raise people from the dead, and multiply loaves and fishes, but he never really saw Jesus for who He was: the Son of God. So he betrayed Jesus to the temple authorities for thirty pieces of silver. The religious leaders suffered from the same spiritual astigmatism. They knew God's prophecies about the coming Savior. They heard Jesus preach and witnessed His miracles, but they refused to believe He was the Promised One and ended up plotting his murder! How's your spiritual vision? Do you need to ask God to clear up your sight?

DAY READ MATTHEW 26:31-35

4

Ever wonder why farmers put rooster weather vanes on their barns? Every time the farmer glanced up to see the direction of the wind the rooster would remind him of the story of Peter and of his need to repent. When the rooster crowed on the day of Jesus' crucifixion, Peter knew that even his best intentions to stand by Jesus had failed. He had failed his best friend. He had failed his savior. Do you see a mess of broken promises, tattered relationships, betrayal of loved ones, and dead-end intentions? Jesus sees those things, too. And His forgiveness is boundless. He longs to take you into his inner circle as He did with Peter. He wants a relationship with you. That relationship begins with a crow of a rooster in your heart. Hear it. Confess your sins and ask for God's grace and mercy.

DAY READ MATTHEW 27:27-56

5

In the most profound moment in cosmic history: God died. The God who created the universe made man and woman from the dust of the earth and propelled history into motion, had a plan from eternity past to bring fallen people back to Himself. The plan? To die for sin-stained, undeserving humanity. Why? Justice required we pay for our sin. God's love drove Him to pay it. The cross is undeniable proof of God's love for us. By Sunday, the final barrier to relationship with God had been breached. The resurrection of Christ conquered the power of death and proved His power to save us! We stand forgiven by the sacrifice of Jesus and by His resurrection. Our bonds are gone. We've been set free! He is risen!

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

facebook.com/parkerhill.org