

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK NINE

### *INTENTION VERSUS EXPECTATION*

**STORY:** Who is sharing their story this week? 3 positives and 3 negatives that have impacted who you are today.

**READ:** Matthew 11:1-11 and Mark 10:32-34

**QUESTION:** Do you think Jesus knew every detail of what was going to happen?

**QUESTION:** What were the Jewish people expecting? Why did they miss this? *They were still looking for a promised Messiah or savior that was promised by their prophets (found in OT), and essentially biding their time until this messiah showed up and helped them overtake Roman authorities and establish their own kingdom.*

**READ:** Zechariah 9:9

**QUESTION:** Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem in this way? *Jesus' purpose in riding into Jerusalem was to make public His claim to be their Messiah and King of Israel in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Fulfill the prophecy.*

**QUESTION:** How were Jesus' intentions different from the crowd's expectations? What was their response?

**QUESTION:** Nathan called this the curse of the unmet expectation. How do we do this? When have you set up an expectation and had a totally different experience?

**QUESTION:** How can we better manage our expectations to be more aware of what God might be doing in them and our experience? *Consider whether God wants to do something in us*

*that is different from what we have been expecting or asking Him to do. Ask if our expectation is about “improving” our life versus doing something in our life that is even better.*

**Nathan asked:** *Am I going to allow my life and all my experiences to be shaped by God’s intentions and purpose or am I going to allow them to be shaped by my expectations and the things I really want? Maybe God wants me to experience a different way of living rather than improving what I’ve already set up.*

**QUESTION:** What are some practical ways we can shift our thinking on this in our work-life, home-life (spouse, kids, parent, siblings), or friendships. Be specific.

**QUESTION:** Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, identified Himself as the promised King and Messiah, and offered to show the crowds a different way. Because He didn’t meet their expectations, they rejected the offer.

Is there something God has been extending to you that you have either been ignoring or rejecting? What keeps you from fully accepting it?

**LEADER PRAYER:** *God make us more aware of when we let our expectations get in the way of your eternal intentions in our lives. Help us see from a bigger perspective than just making life work like we think it should. Give us the courage to accept what you are offering us each day. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

**LEADER:** **BAPTISM! BAPTISM! BAPTISM!**

Baptism is coming up Palm Sunday Weekend!

Talk about the importance of baptism as a next step in your faith.

Encourage members to sign up online –

or call Michael at WE, Tarina at MC, or Tanya Cisneros at Richmond and make plans to come and cheer on your group members.