



SERMON TITLE

From Palms to Pain: When Jesus Doesn't Meet Your Expectations

SERIES

DATE

3/29/2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:1-11

SYNOPSIS

Jesus doesn't always meet our expectations—but He always meets our deepest need.

HIGHLIGHTS



Sermon Summary

BIG IDEA

Jesus often works differently than we expect, but always toward what we truly need.

"Jesus doesn't always meet our expectations—but He always meets our deepest need."

Notes:

EXPECTATION

We build expectations about how life—and God—should work. When reality doesn't match, disappointment follows.

"You're convinced, 'This is going to be great.' And then reality shows up... and it's not what you thought."

Notes:

MISUNDERSTOOD

The crowd expected a conquering king. Instead, Jesus came humbly, focused on deeper transformation.

"Hosanna—save us now."

Notes:



COLLISION

When Jesus didn't meet expectations, praise turned into rejection. Their view of Him couldn't hold.

"Crucify Him."

Notes:

OUR STORY

We bring expectations to Jesus too. When He leads differently, it exposes what we really trust.

"We love Jesus as Savior... until He starts acting like Lord."

Notes:

FRIDAY

There are seasons where following Jesus feels confusing or even like loss.

"Friday didn't look like victory. It didn't feel like hope."

Notes:

SUNDAY

God is still working, even when it looks like things are falling apart.

"If Jesus hasn't met your expectations, He may still be meeting your deepest need."

Notes:



REFLECTION

Where have I felt disappointed with God?
What expectations might I need to release?
Will I stay when I don't understand?

Notes:

TAKE THIS WITH YOU

Don't walk away on Friday. Stay for Sunday.