

April 14, 2019
Palm Sunday
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Never Judge A Gospel By Its Popularity
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Luke 19:28-40

²⁸ **After Jesus had said this**, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ They replied, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the **miracles they had seen**: ³⁸ “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “**Teacher, rebuke your disciples!**” ⁴⁰ “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Timeline: Within a week Jesus would be dead, condemned to be crucified by the voices of the same crowds lauding him as the coming king, **but why?**

Jesus was condemned by the Jewish leaders for what he had been saying and doing,
but by the crowds for what he ended up not doing.

Jesus did not end up being the Messiah that they wanted.

- The crowds wanted a "half gospel", a gospel of power, but devoid of suffering; a gospel of salvation, but empty of consequence.
- **They had come for miracles, but left when Jesus would not heal Himself.**
 - **Vs. 37** *When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen.*
 - **Mark 15:30** *Come down from the cross and save Yourself.*

Question: What will you do, when you no longer like or understand what Jesus is saying or doing?

- **Matthew 24:10** *At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹²Because of the increase of **wickedness**, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

Standing firm to the end: Which gospel will you preach?

- **1 Corinthians 1:17-19** *For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, **lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power**. ¹⁸For the message of the cross is **foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God**. ¹⁹For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”*

Food For The Journey: Use these questions and challenges to dig deeper into this scripture and beyond.

1. Can you articulate the core elements of the gospel? Meaning, can you explain why Jesus came to earth?
2. Has Jesus ever let you down? What was the result on your faith?
3. The crowd wanted a political savior more than a universal king? Why do you think that they were so short sighted?
4. What would some examples be of a ½ gospel? Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:17-19 talks about a gospel with no power. What would cause that?
5. What would it take for you to lose your faith in Jesus? Or if you are not a Christ follower, what would it take for you to perhaps begin to put your faith in Christ?