

THE ROAD THROUGH THE CROSS

Great Expectations

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John 12:12-19 NLT

The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted,

"Praise God!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hail to the King of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said:

"Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem.

Look, your King is coming,

riding on a donkey's colt."

His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him.

Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it. That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. Then the Pharisees said to each other, "There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!"

John 13:6-8 NLT

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

"No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

Great Expectations Small Group Questions

1. In what areas of your life do you have expectations? How do you feel when they are not met?
2. In what ways do you expect things from God? How do you respond when those aren't met in the way you were hoping?
3. Jesus talked about dying to self (read Matthew 10:38). What does dying to self look like in the context of expectations on God?
4. What are some areas in your life where you may have to let go of what you expect and give them over to Jesus? How can others hold you accountable to that this week?