

The Jerusalem Times

ARRIVAL OF JESUS SPARKS STREET CELEBRATION

PART 3 IN THE SERIES, **HEADLINES:** THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

An Investigative Report by Pastor Grant Fishbook

The Triumphal Entry

⁷ When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it.

⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

¹⁰ “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” – *Mark 11:7-10*

Question: Was Jesus disappointed?

Fact: The same people who shouted “Hosanna!” would later shout “Crucify him!”

A Story of Disappointment: Mark 9:17-32

¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

The father is disappointed in Jesus

He is also disappointed in the disciples

¹⁹ “You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”

Jesus is disappointed in their lack of faith

²⁰ So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹ Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood,” he answered. ²² “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

²³ “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

²⁴ Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

The father is disappointed in himself

²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” ²⁶ The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out.

The demon is disappointed that Jesus showed up

(continues on back)

^{26b} The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. ²⁸ After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

²⁹ He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

The disciples are disappointed in themselves

What We Need to Know About Disappointment:

The root of all disappointment is unmet expectations

The fact that I am disappointed does not diminish God’s power

My disappointment with God is rooted in myself, not in God

My disappointment overlooks God’s potential

Jesus’ answer to our disappointment:

Bring it to me – don’t hold on to your disappointment (vs. 19)

Pray – help my unbelief. (vs. 24, 29)

Next Steps

1. Respond to the “Easter Challenge”

- Pray for and invite 5 people to an Easter weekend service. Invitations available in the Commons today.
- Learn our Easter anthem, *Christ is Risen*, so we can raise a unified voice of celebration on Easter weekend. Free download at ctkbellingham.com/easter.
- Be on time on Easter weekend to make it easier for those who are unfamiliar with our parking lot and building.

2. Be more than an observer this Easter season. Help reach our community by serving during Holy Week, Good Friday, or Easter Services (see opportunities listed in today’s program or at ctkbellingham.com/easter). Use the Connection Card to sign up today.

Small Group Questions



- 1) What are your family plans for Easter? What are your spiritual plans for Easter?
- 2) Read Mark 9:14-32. Which person do you most relate to and why? The father? The disciples? The crowd? Jesus?
- 3) This is a great moment for transparency. Have you ever been disappointed in God? Why were you disappointed? Are you still carrying that disappointment?
- 4) Are you satisfied with Jesus’ answer on handling disappointment? Are you willing to do it?
- 5) How can we pray for you tonight?