

Creekside Community Church
Matthew: Return of the King
February 11th, 2018
Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

Matthew 20:29-21:11: Crowd Control

1. The Danger of Seeking the Crowd's Approval (21:1-11)

2. The Danger of Heeding the Crowd's Disapproval (20:29-34)

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Recall a time you felt pressured by peers to do something you wouldn't normally do. What happened? How did you respond? Why did you respond the way you did?

Going Deeper

3. What's the significance of Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem (vv. 1-3; see Genesis 49:10-11; 1 Samuel 16:2; 1 Kings 1:33, 38, 44)? Why do the crowds spread their cloaks on the road (v. 8; see 2 Kings 9:13 Judges 5:10)? Why do they place palm branches on the road? Why is it significant that the crowds quote from Psalm 118? What does this reveal about their understanding of Jesus, and what kind of Messiah he will be?
4. Is the correct crowd correct in their assessment of Jesus? What do they get right? What do they miss (see vv. 4-6; Zechariah 9:9-10)?
5. How does Jesus demonstrate the kind of Messiah he will be (see 20:29-34)? Why would the crowd discourage Jesus from listening to these blind men? What does this reveal about the crowd? Compare and contrast the crowds with the two blind men. What's similar about them (see 20:29-30; 21:9)? What's different?
6. How is Jesus' arrival perceived in Jerusalem (see vv. 10-11)? Why do the Galilean pilgrims respond differently to Jesus than the local Jerusalemites?

Application

7. Where are you tempted to seek crowd approval over God's will? According to Jesus, what's the danger of being motivated by crowd approval (see Matthew 6:1, 2, 5, 16)? How does Jesus' example in this passage encourage you?
8. Where are you tempted to shrink back from following God's will for fear of crowd disapproval? How does Jesus' example in this passage encourage you?