What was Jesus thinking when He went to the Cross?

EXODUS IS THE STORY OF SALVATION!
This was their “salvation” moment! Being rescued from bondage (freed from the people and things that held them in slavery and bondage); I will be your God & you my people!

What to look for in the Exodus story!

1. Tyrant
2. Deliverer
3. Feats of wonder (plagues!) with people set free
4. A sacrifice to save them: lamb at Passover
5. A vocation (partnership)
6. God living with them again
7. Promised inheritance

Jeremiah 32:27–35 New International Version (NIV)
27 “I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me? 28 Therefore this is what the Lord says: I am about to give this city into the hands of the Babylonians and to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who will capture it. 29 The Babylonians who are attacking this city will come in and set it on fire; they will burn it down, along with the houses where the people aroused my anger by burning incense on the roofs to Baal and by pouring out drink offerings to other gods. 30 “The people of Israel and Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth; indeed, the people of Israel have done nothing but arouse my anger with what their hands have made, declares the Lord. 31 From the day it was built until now, this city has so aroused my anger and wrath that I must remove it from my sight. 32 The people of Israel and Judah have provoked me by all the evil they have done—they, their kings and officials, their priests and prophets, the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem. 33 They turned their backs to me and not their faces; though I taught them again and again, they would not listen or respond to discipline. 34 They set up their vile images in the house that bears my Name and defiled it. 35 They built high places for Baal in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molek, though I never commanded—nor did it enter my mind—that they should do such a detestable thing and so make Judah sin.

Jeremiah 34:18–20 NIV
18 Those who have violated my covenant and have not fulfilled the terms of the covenant they made before me, I will treat like the calf they cut in two and then walked between its pieces. 19 The leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the court officials, the priests and all the people of the land who walked between the pieces of the calf, 20 I will deliver into the hands of their enemies who want to kill them 20 You performed signs and wonders in Egypt and have continued them to this day, in Israel and among all mankind, and have gained the renown that is still yours.

Jeremiah 32:20–23 NIV
20 You performed signs and wonders in Egypt and have continued them to this day, in Israel and among all mankind, and have gained the renown that is still yours. 21 You brought your people Israel out of Egypt with signs and wonders, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with great terror. 22 You gave
them this land you had sworn to give their ancestors, a land flowing with milk and honey. 23 They came in and took possession of it, but they did not obey you or follow your law; they did not do what you commanded them to do. So you brought all this disaster on them.

Jeremiah 32:38–41 NIV
38 They will be my people, and I will be their God. 39 I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. 40 I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. 41 I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.

So, what did Jesus think he was doing this Passover in 30-Something AD?

He thought he was finally for the last time leading God’s people out of bondage and back into fellowship with God!

Jeremiah 33:14–16 NIV
14 “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.’ Jesus leads the New Exodus

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. 43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

What to look for as Jesus approached the cross?

1. Tyrant
2. Deliverer
3. Feats of wonder (plagues!) with people set free
4. A sacrifice to save them: lamb at Passover
5. A vocation (partnership)
6. God living with them again
7. Promised inheritance

What was the New Covenant in Jeremiah that God promised that would be written on our hearts?

Jeremiah 31:31–34
31 “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. 33 “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”
1. Do you ever feel outside the reach of God’s redemption? If so, why?

2. How does your view of who God is measure up with this message of a God who is willing to go to the cross?

3. How does this story give you renewed hope that God is FOR you?

4. Could God be using a hardship in our lives to wake us up to our need for Him? If so, what are we going to do about it?

5. Does your “salvation” story look different when you measure it against the elements of these stories?