

MISMATCH Matthew 21:1-11

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April 5-6, 2014

Take-Home Truth: When we see God for who He actually is, we learn to trust Him and draw close to Him.

THERE WAS A MISMATCH BETWEEN THE JEWS' EXPECTATIONS OF THE MESSIAH AND GOD'S PROMISE FOR THE MESSIAH.

*As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵"Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!"
Matthew 21:1-9 (New International Version)*

*Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas."²²Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!"
Matthew 27:20-22 (English Standard Version)*

THERE IS OFTEN A MISMATCH BETWEEN BELIEVERS' EXPECTATIONS OF GOD AND WHO GOD ACTUALLY IS.

Our Inaccurate Expectations for God

- **A Grandfather God vs. a Good God**

*. . . Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.
Psalm 106:1b (NIV)*

The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made . . . ¹⁵The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. ¹⁶You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Psalm 145:9, 15-16 (NIV)

- **A Fixer God vs. a Transforming God**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2 (ESV)

- **A Taskmaster God vs. a Relational God**

- First-order calling: a personal love relationship with God
- Second-order calling: follow Jesus

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5 (NIV)

. . . Let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. Jeremiah 9:24a (ESV)