



SERMON CHEAT SHEET

THE BEGINNING OF THE END | John 12:12-50

CHOOSE YOUR KING

The Triumphant Entry: Expectations vs. Reality

As we reflect on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, we see a vibrant crowd waving palm branches, expecting a conquering king to deliver them from oppression. But instead, Jesus chooses to ride in on a donkey, symbolizing peace rather than war. This contrast begs the question: What kind of king do we expect Jesus to be in our lives? Are we ready to accept Him in humility and peace, not just as our Savior but as our guide and shepherd living out His purpose?

The Invitation to Know Jesus Deeply

Amid the excitement, a vital moment arises when some Greeks approach Philip asking to see Jesus. This moment reveals that Jesus' message transcends cultural and ethnic boundaries, calling everyone to Him, regardless of past identity. It further emphasizes how crucial it is for us to seek a genuine understanding of who Jesus truly is—not merely a political figure or convenience but the Savior calling us into deeper relationship and greater purpose. Are we actively pursuing a relationship that goes beyond surface-level knowledge?

The Cost of Following Jesus: Embracing Death to Self

Jesus emphasizes a sobering truth: unless a kernel of wheat dies, it remains alone. He speaks of His own death, inviting us to understand that following Him requires self-denial and a willingness to sacrifice our lives for His. This truth is sometimes daunting, yet it is through this surrender that we truly find life. As we navigate our daily challenges, recognizing that our comforts may need to be set aside for the growth of God's kingdom is essential. Are we willing to die to our own desires to follow Him fully?

Judgment and Light: Choosing Our Allegiance

In this passage, Jesus tells the crowd that judgment has arrived, indicating that His coming forces a choice—accept His light or remain in darkness. The imagery of light and darkness embodies the spiritual battle we face daily, compelling us to make conscious decisions about whom we serve. By walking in the light, we align ourselves with God's will and purpose for our lives. This is a crucial reminder to evaluate our own hearts: Are we aligning our actions with the light of Christ or allowing the shadows of fear, doubt, and strife to overwhelm us?

The Assurance of God's Sovereign Plan

Finally, we recognize that God's plan is unfolding securely, even when we struggle to understand it. The disciples did not grasp the significance of Jesus' mission until after His resurrection, suggesting that God's purposes often develop in layers, requiring patience and faith on our part. Notably, God's reach expands beyond our limitations, inviting Jews and Gentiles alike into His family. Embracing this assurance helps us stay steadfast amidst uncertainty. Are we trusting that God has a plan in our trials, and can we remain faithful during the waiting?

LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Take time daily to reflect on your understanding of Jesus. Consider journaling about who He is in your life.
- Identify an area of self that you can surrender to Jesus this week. Invite Him to help you let go of control and trust Him instead.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray for clarity in understanding the true nature of Jesus in your life.
- Seek the Lord's help in areas where you need to surrender yourself for His will.
- Pray for the wisdom to live as children of light in a world filled with darkness.