



The Future Is Bright - Pastor Tim Chambers

Key Idea: Say Goodbye to false expectations

Scriptures Used: Matthew 21:1-11; Matthew 16:15; John 14:6

Share with your LOOP: Today's focus is on how to..."Say Goodbye To False Expectations... It's Sunday but Friday is Coming. In Matthew 21:1-11 – Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey, as the crowds shout "Hosanna!" Jerusalem was electric. Crowds were pressing in. People were climbing trees, waving palm branches, and shouting, "*Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*" They had been waiting for this moment—the arrival of a king who would change everything. A king to overthrow Roman rule. A king to restore power. A king to finally fix their situation. But Jesus didn't come to change their situation. He came to change them. They were cheering for the king of their expectations, But Jesus came as the King of their transformation.

Discussion questions:

- 1) What are the causes of false expectations? What things can we put in practice to prevent having false expectations?
- 2) *Before resurrection can come, some things must die—including our expectations. To fully receive the victory of Easter, we must say goodbye to our false expectations of Jesus—and embrace who He truly is. How do we get to know Jesus for who He really is and not who we think He is or should be?*
- 3) *Share of a time when Jesus made Himself real to you. How did that encounter correct a false expectation you had of Him?*

Read: Matthew 21:1-11 "As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying 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. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet. 5 "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The 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 heaven!”
10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is
this?” 11 The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”**

Share with your LOOP: The crowd wasn't wrong to call Him King—but they misunderstood what kind of king He was. They wanted a throne. They wanted a political revolution. He came with a cross. *Sound familiar?* We want God to fix things our way. But Jesus came to do a deeper work—in us.

Discussion question:

- 1) *Share of a time when you were asking God to fix a situation in your life and instead He walked you through it. What deeper work did He accomplish in you? How has that experience changed you?*

Share with your LOOP: What version of Jesus have you created that you need to say goodbye to? “Saying Goodbye” is letting go of what holds us back so we can step into the bright future God has for us.

Ask your LOOP the following to continue group discussion: *Which one of these things sticks out to you as the one to focus on surrendering to God and saying goodbye to first. Explain why.*

- ✓ **False Expectations** - *“They were cheering for the king of their expectations, But Jesus came as the king of their transformation.”*
- ✓ **Control** - *“Jesus is not a puppet king we control with our preferences. He’s a sovereign King who calls us to surrender.”*
- ✓ **Comfort** - *“Sometimes God will lead you through discomfort - not to hurt you, but to heal you.”*
- ✓ **Shallow Praise** - *“True worship is louder than the crowd and stronger than the cross. Can you still worship when your expectations die?”*
- ✓ **Misunderstanding the Messiah** - *“Jesus may not have been the King they expected - but He was everything they needed.”*

Read: Matthew 16:15 **“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”**

Discussion questions:

- 1) *This is the question we all must answer. How would you answer this question if asked?*

- 2) *How has your response to this question changed since coming to faith in Jesus and receiving Him as your Lord and Savior? What does this teach us about faith in Jesus?*

Read: John 14:6 "Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Discussion questions:

- 1) *Palm Sunday invites us to say goodbye to our version of Jesus...So we can embrace the real one. How have you experienced Jesus as He describes Himself in John 14:6?*
- 2) *If your Jesus always agrees with you, looks like you, and never challenges you—then you might not be worshiping Jesus. You might be worshiping a version of yourself. Do you agree that it's possible to idolize and serve ourselves? Explain your response. How can we break free from serving ourselves?*

Closing Remarks: What are you holding onto that's keeping you from following Jesus to the cross? What version of Jesus are you ready to say goodbye to? Are you only following Him on Sunday—or are you ready to walk with Him through Friday? Palm Sunday was never just about celebration. It was about preparation. Preparation for the cross. Preparation for surrender. Preparation for transformation. What do you need to say goodbye to...So you can follow Jesus all the way to resurrection? Because... **It's Sunday but Friday is Coming.**

Close in prayer.

Share with your LOOP these Upcoming Events:

Easter at Fresh Start Church, April 20th

- Easter weekend at Fresh Start Church kicks off with a Good Friday service on April 18th at 7pm where we'll worship together and take communion as we remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us.
- Then on Easter Sunday it's time to say goodbye to death and defeat! That's exactly what we'll be doing on Sunday, April 20th at Fresh Start Church! We have three identical Easter services for you and your family to choose from at 9am, 10:30am and 12 noon. All three services will have super fun environments for kids birth through 5th grade.

2025 Global Impact Mission Classic, May 19, 2025 (Registration is now open)

- This year's golf tournament at Harbor Pines Golf Club will benefit OneChild.
- Encourage your LOOP to provide gift basket prizes, which have always made the Impact Auction a terrific experience for all participants (golfers, sponsors, workers, volunteers, and those who come for the dinner).
- Basket theme ideas are wide open and the starting value amount \$80.
- We also encourage inviting other church members in helping build the gift baskets. Baskets can be brought to the church the first week of May.
- Register on Church Center App or on our website.