

Introducing Jesus: will the real Jesus please stand up?

Steve Derges

Luke 4: 14-22; Luke 19:29-48

1. What was going on, on the day we call Palm Sunday? Was Jesus orchestrating things, precipitating reaction, or did it just happen? Read the OT verses which the gospel writers claim were fulfilled that day – Psalm 118:25,26; Zechariah 9:9.
2. Do you think the crowds knew what they were doing or were they simply caught up in the moment? (see Matthew 21:20-21 and John 12:16-19)
3. How does the Palm Sunday picture of Messiah compare and contrast with the picture Jesus paints in Luke 4? Which one is right? Why do you think so?
4. How do we tend to be influenced? Crowd dynamics; people we admire; persuasive speakers; positive or negative propaganda?
5. What are some of the distinctives we hold as Christians which are at odds with what most people in town think?
6. What are some of the key objections that people have toward Jesus?
7. Steve gave us four keys to introducing Jesus
 - God created us, loves us and wants us to know Him personally
 - We've messed up
 - Jesus reconciles us to God
 - Every one of us has to make a decisionHow do you respond to these? How do you think your friends may respond to them?

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