



- Because of the vantage point from which we look back upon Palm Sunday, its events can be quite easy for us to misunderstand.
- The crowd wanted a savior of their own **DESIGN** not the genuine Christ.

Big Idea:

The real Christ is infinitely better than any Savior we could devise.

- v. 12-13 – The palm branches indicated the people’s belief that Jesus was a deliverer from God who would bring about their **SALVATION**
 - Good Friday makes obvious that the people’s cries for salvation were cries for a lesser salvation than Jesus came to provide.
 - “*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord*” is a tribute to the Messiah that comes from Psalm 118, “The Conqueror’s Psalm.”
 - The crowd longed for the power that they had witnessed in the resurrection of Lazarus to bring liberation from **ROME**
- v. 17 – Testimonies of Christ’s awesome power to raise the dead are brought forth jubilant acclamations throughout all of Jerusalem.
- v. 18 – The vast majority of the Palm Sunday crowd proved to be self-directed, religious **THRILL-SEEKERS**

- This attitude in the hearts of people was nothing new (Mat. 12:38-39, John 6:26, John 6:66).
- They were fickle and fleeting and only willing to come to Christ if they could come in their own way and on their own terms.
- **We are wise to recognize how TEMPTING it can be to turn Jesus into a messiah of our own making.**
 - If we only want a Jesus that suits our own desires, then our lives will never be any more meaningful than what we ourselves can contrive.
 - If we seek Christ as He is and not as *we* think He should be, we will find Him to be infinitely more SATISFYING than we could ever have imagined (Psalm 37:4).
- **Even as much as the real Christ is far superior to the designer Jesus preferred by the masses, He is also far more RADICAL**
 - His triumphal entry would not end in the military victory everyone wanted, but in the atoning sacrifice everyone needed.
 - Even as Jesus took up the cross for us, so too those of us who have truly heard and received His salvation must deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him.
- *What type of followers will we be?*
 - *Will we be we thrill-seekers or seekers of CHRIST?*
 - *Will we choose the crowd or the cling to the cross?*
 - *How will you and I choose to seek the Lord? Will we come wanting Him only as He really is?*