

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2nd | *JOHN 12:12-19*

In 1989 Texas businessman Clayton Williams decided to run for Governor of the State of Texas. Williams was the Republican candidate and by all appearances the favorite to win the election. Williams had a twenty percent lead over the Democratic candidate, Ann Richards, and was a shoe in for governor heading into the fall election. In March of 1990, Williams was hosting a group of reporters attending a roping event at his ranch outside of Midland. The weather was bad that particular day and the reporters were getting restless. When one of William's aides informed him of the situation, Williams made a vulgar comment comparing the bad weather to rape. The despicable comment was printed in newspapers across the state and ended up making national news. Overnight, Williams went from hero to villain. The public's opinion of Clayton Williams' disgusting comment was soon reflected in public opinion polls. What was once a forgone conclusion turned into an all-out battle for the state's highest office. Williams' lead over Richards soon evaporated and he ended up losing the Governor's election.

Jesus' popularity was at an all-time high as he made his way to Jerusalem that Sunday. Messianic expectations were high as the crowds ran out to greet Jesus crying, "Hosanna!" Yet, in a mere five days many in that crowd were now shouting, "Crucify him!" Unlike Clayton Williams, Jesus had not made a stupid comment, nor had he made a political blunder. In fact, his lack of a political agenda contributed to his death. Jesus did not meet the expectations of many in the crowds that followed him. As soon as those people's expectations were not met, they had no need of Jesus Christ. In fact, their disappointment turned to hatred and rejection.

Perhaps you are experiencing disappointment in your walk with Jesus. He has not met your expectations. He has not come through in the way you want. I understand. More importantly, Jesus does. In the Old Testament book of Job, Job replied to his wife, "Shall we accept only good from the Lord and not trouble?" Job's wife had a philosophy that all of life should be pleasant and if it was not, then perhaps it wasn't worth living. We often think we know best and that if God would get on our agenda, all would be good. We think, like Job's wife, that the highest goal in life is pleasantness as defined by us! The people of Jesus' day thought the best thing for them would be a political messiah when in reality what they needed was a suffering, substitutional Messiah. God in his grace knows what I need even when, especially when, I don't see it! I know I can be like the crowd of Jesus' day. I want him to meet *my* expectations. Yet time and time again, God shows me that what I really need is his sovereign grace. Take time to reflect on your expectations of Jesus. How do those expectations line up with God's will as revealed in the scriptures? Have you put an artificial timeline on those expectations? Our enemy, Satan, wants us to live disappointed lives. Jesus has come that we might have life to the full! Will you, by faith, trust the Lord to bring about what is best for you?

May the Lord speak truth to your heart as you focus on him this week.

In Christ,

John