# The Focussed Jesus: Jesus’ ministry in the last week of His mortal life John 12:1-19:42

# The Focussed Jesus

## Go with the flow but decide on your audienceJohn 12:12-29

# Your audience

## One of the key decisions you make is the choice of your audience

### John Lydgate: “You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can’t please all of the people all of the time”

## How people treat you is their choice

### How you react is yours

# Palm Sunday reactions to Jesus

## Religious people didn’t get it

### The Pharisees (Jn); The teachers of the Law (Scribes) (Mt)

### The Chief Priests (Mt); Even Jesus’ disciples didn’t get all of it

## Other people did

### The great crowd from Jerusalem (Jn); Some Greeks (Jn 12:20)

### Children shouting in the temple (Mt); The blind and the lame (Mt)

### The 2nd crowd

# God was fulfilling His plan

## People were rejoicing or plotting but Jesus enjoyed and wept and got angry and submitted to the Father’s will

### How people treat you is their choice, how you react is yours

## Jesus’ view was:

### Not to look for popularity but to please the Father

# God calls you to follow Jesus and do the same

## It’s a call to find your audience and approval and value and truth in God

### Then live as God intended

## God’s reaction to you is the one that matters for all eternity…

### And He likes you!

## How you react is your choice…

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Who do you try to impress?

## What do you do?

### What do you hope to gain?

## Who do you NOT try to impress?

### Why is that?

## Can you impress yourself?

## When you choose the smallest piece of cake in front of family or friends what are you hoping to achieve?

# If you were there…

## If a famous Christian came to Histon who would you be amongst in the story?

### The crowd who welcomed/the critics/the outsiders/the disciples/the children?

#### Explain your attitude

# The choice of the donkey

## A key to understanding Jesus’ attitude to the entry is from history

### Find out what happened during the period of the Maccabees (Isa 31:1-3 is the prophetic background to this)

### See how Solomon entered (1Kings 4:26)

### Now look up Zechariah 9:9

#### How did Jesus want to enter?

#### Why do you think this is important to Him?

# The use of the Psalm

## Ps 118 is part of the Egyptian Hallel (Psalms of praise 113-118) used daily during the feast of Tabernacles but it is quoted here at the beginning of Passover

### Read the whole Psalm and give your impressions of what it is about

#### Skim read 113-117 and discuss how ending with Ps 118 feels

## It is also part of the Great Hallel (118-136) now recited at Passover

### Skim these Psalms and discuss how beginning with this Psalm feels