

John 12 — Hosanna to Crucify?

John 12:12–19 (with 12:16–18 · 19:15 · 2:23–25 · 6:26) · For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW (post-ready)

Watch the crowd in John 12. They line the road with palm branches and shout, **“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”** (12:13). It looks like worship — and the words are exactly right. But John tells you why they showed up: *“the reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign”* (12:18) — they’d heard about Lazarus, and they wanted to see the man who empties tombs. They’re crowning a king they’ve built in their own heads, one who’ll ride in and deal with Rome. So Jesus answers them without a word: he sits on a young donkey (12:14–15), a king headed for a cross, not a throne. And within the week the same city’s cry curdles: **“We have no king but Caesar!”** (19:15). From “King of Israel” to “no king but Caesar.” Here’s the mirror John hands us: praise that’s really about what Jesus can do for me can flip that fast. The question isn’t how they turned. It’s whether my Hosanna would survive Jesus not being the king I had in mind.

GO DEEPER — STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Read John 12:12–19, then keep reading to John 19:1–16 and set two shouts side by side: **“Blessed is the King of Israel!”** (12:13) and **“We have no king but Caesar!”** (19:15) — same city, one week apart. Then go back to **12:17–18** and ask why the crowd was there: what were they hoping to see? Put that next to **John 2:23–25**, where many “believed” at the signs but Jesus “did not entrust himself to them,” and **John 6:26** — “you seek me... because you ate your fill.” Ask what it would take for your own Hosanna to go quiet.

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in John: 12:12–19 · 12:14–15 · 12:16 · 12:17–18 · 19:15 · 2:23–25 · 6:26 · 6:66 · 6:15

Other Gospels: Matthew 21:8–11 · Mark 11:8–10 · Luke 19:37–44

Rest of Scripture: Psalm 118:25–26 · Zechariah 9:9

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

He Wept as They Welcomed Him: The Hope and Sorrow of Palm Sunday

Jon Bloom — Desiring God

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/he-wept-as-they-welcomed-him>

Their words were right; their understanding wasn’t — they welcomed a King they’d misread, and Jesus wept over a city that missed him.

The Triumphal Entry

Ligonier Ministries (Tabletalk)

<https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/triumphal-entry-2>

They shouted “Hosanna!” for a conquering king; Jesus chose a donkey to reveal the humble kingdom most of them did not want.

Expository Thoughts on John — Chapter 12

J.C. Ryle — GraceGems

<https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/j12.htm>

Ryle on why Jesus, who had long avoided public notice, deliberately accepted this very public entry once “the time had come at last” for him to die.