

Kidz Connect  
The Triumphal Entry  
by Jana Lee

The Jews of Jesus day were watching and waiting for the Messiah. Others “messiah’s” had come, but they didn’t pan out, and yet the Jews still held out hope and kept on watching and waiting. Despite this, when Jesus came, he took them by surprise. He didn’t act or speak, as they believed their messiah should. Still, many were ready to forgive his differences if he would just do what he was supposed to do, come as king. They had watched and waited and were not going to let the possibility pass by. So, when he asked for a donkey to ride into Jerusalem, word spread quickly and people were ready. Here was their king, ready to lead them to freedom. Freedom from the Romans, back to a life where they ruled themselves. A life they had built up in their heads as the ultimate goal. They must have talked amongst themselves “If only it were like the days of David”. “Back then it was better”.

Jesus knew this. He knew their misperceptions and false expectations. And here, this time, he doesn’t correct them. He also saw their hearts. A people longing for a true king. He knew he could give them that, even if it was not what they expected. Jesus knew this experience mattered for them, even if their understanding of its true meaning was lacking. He was the true king, and he let them celebrate him, even if they would be shocked and disappointed by his death in the very near future. This experience was more important than correcting their every belief.

I think I need to experience this Jesus more - for both myself and as a leader for Christ. I spend time wanting to understand everything, studying my Bible, researching texts and reading books. I want to understand where God is in the world today and what He is doing. Then, as I talk to others, I want them to understand as well. I want them to see what I see and understand what I understand. But here, I think Jesus says that sometimes what is needed isn’t right belief or understanding, but simply worship and experience. To experience Jesus matters just as much, if not more, than to understand Jesus.

Have I experienced Jesus lately? As a parent, how have I invited my children to experience Him, beyond our family worships or church? As a church leader, what does it look like to lead people into a life-changing experience of Jesus? I believe this is one of the most important lessons of the Triumphal entry. Jesus wasn’t a lesson, Jesus was and is someone we worship and live with and experience every day.