THE MESSIAH THE JEWS WERE LOOKING FOR

John 6:15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him King by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Background – a Year Earlier

A great crowd, 5,000 men plus women and children, has run part way around the Sea of Galilee to get where Jesus was going before He got there. When He gets there, He heals their sick and teaches them, and uses five barley loaves and two small fish to feed them and there are 12 baskets of broken pieces of bread and fish left over. Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13

John 6:14 After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

Deuteronomy 18:17-19 The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name.”

John 6:15-17 Jesus, knowing they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum.

Background – After Feeding 4,000

Matthew 16:21-23 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said, “This shall never happen to you.” Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Background – the Evening Before

John 12:1-3 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, and expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:4-6 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

John 12:7&8 “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

Mark 14:10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them.

John 12:9&10 Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

The Triumphal Entry

John 12:11-18 The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem…Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him.

John 12:13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”

John 12:14-16 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did the realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

The Old Testament Prophecies

Zechariah 9:9&10 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses for Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Isaiah 52:13-15 See, my servant will act wisely, he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at him – his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being, and his form marred beyond human likeness – so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard they will understand.

Isaiah 53:1-3 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray; each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:11&12 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

A Common Problem

We tend to see the outside causes of our problems much more clearly than the inward causes. The Scriptures talked about a king who would reign and a man who would suffer for the sins of others. Before Jesus, the rabbis talked about two messiahs, eventually after Jesus came, they said Isaiah 53 referred to the suffering of the Jewish people for the sins of the world.

One of the reasons the Jewish leadership and many other Jews rejected Jesus was the feeling that their basic problem was political, the Romans. They thought they were fine, and that a change of government would fix everything. But Jesus came to die for us because the basic problem for humanity is not external, it is our sinful ways. They were eager to welcome a king who would throw out the Romans, they were not so eager for a Savior who would deal with their sin.

Things to Remember

The vast majority of the Jewish people celebrated Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem because they were hoping he would fix what they saw as their major problem, the Roman occupation.

Even the disciples were looking more for a king than a Savior. Jesus rebuked Peter and he repented; Judas was rebuked and Judas betrayed Jesus.

We are very prone to making the same mistake, seeing our problems as external rather than internal.

Jeremiah 17:5 This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD.”

Jeremiah 17:7 “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.”

Jeremiah 17:9(SV) The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it.