



**Building a Better Covenant
(Decide How You Will End)**

April 13-14, 2019

Series Summary: Three decisions are important if you want to improve your covenant.

1. Decide Where You Stand (Think of the word **Conviction**)

- **Note:** This is the day you decide to believe with conviction what God says about the best way to live your life.

2. Decide How You Will End (Think of the word **Repentance**)

- **Note:** This is the day you repent and bring your old life to an end (metanoia, to change your mind)

3. Decide How You Will Start Over (Think of the word **Resurrection**)

- **Note:** This is the day you rise with Christ and live a new way victoriously. (Roman 6:5-6)
- 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly **we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection**, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that **we should no longer be slaves of sin**. (NKJV)

Three Ways I Pray You End Your Life

I. With Good Friends

Note: Six days before his death Jesus visits his covenant friends (John 12:1-2, 9-11)

Question: Who would you visit if you knew you had six days left to live?

- 1 **Then, six days before the Passover**, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. 2 There **they made Him a supper**; and Martha served, but **Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him**.
- 9 Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and **they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus**, whom He had raised from the dead.
- 10 But **the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death** also, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

- A. He was with a friend Lazarus having family dinner (John v12:1-2)
- B. He was with a friend who all of a sudden became **famous** (12:9)
- C. He was with a friend that people wanted to **kill** (12:10)

II. Knowing the Truth

(Know the real reason)

12:12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when **they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem**, 13 took branches of palm trees and **went out to meet Him**, and cried out: "Hosanna (or Save Now)!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "The King of Israel!"



Question: Have you ever had people be excited about you one minute and angry at you the next?

Note: Just a few days from today they would kill Jesus.

III. Surprising People

(John 12:14-16)

14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

15 “Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey’s colt.”

16 His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

Note: Two Surprising Things On The Lord’s Mind

1. He surprised everybody because **He did not come riding on a horse with a sword. But, He came riding on a mule.**
2. He came with a **“free his people spiritually”** not **“conquer the Romans”** commitment. His plan was to, “save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

Next Time: Deciding to Be Free

Big Question: Does your life look **resurrection free**?

Additional Reading You May Enjoy

(Bible Knowledge Commentary)

- John 12:12–15 (BKC) A wild enthusiasm over Jesus broke out. Thousands of Galilean pilgrims had come to the Passover, and they had seen many of His mighty works. Previously, he had rejected the role of a political Messiah (6:15) but, they thought, perhaps now was the right moment. Jerusalem was the city of the great King and He was coming to it.
- Waving their palm branches, symbols of victory, the people were shouting (ekraugazon; cf. comments on 11:43) Hosanna! “Hosanna” in Hebrew means “Please save” or “Save now” (cf. Ps. 118:25). It came to be a shout of praise. Quoting Psalm 118:26, they ascribed messianic titles to Him: He who comes (lit., “the Coming One”; cf. John 11:27) and the King of Israel.
- 12:14–15. Jesus’ riding into the city on a young donkey was a sign of peace (cf. comments on Matt. 21:2, which speaks of Jesus riding on a donkey and a colt). He did not ride a war horse or carry a sword or wear a crown. Nor did He ride in a wheeled vehicle, as did many kings.