

# groups.

— Notes | March 29, 2026

## Palm Sunday: Misunderstanding Jesus

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Who is Jesus, really? This was THE question of Palm Sunday and all the events of Holy Week that followed. Two thousand years later, this question still matters because everyone has a different opinion about Jesus. Your parents, your grandmother, your neighbor, the influencer you follow, and yes, even the world all have an opinion about Jesus. Opinions can be influenced by biases, flaws, and inconsistencies instilled in us by others and by our own experiences. But what happens to our opinions when we set aside our feelings and what we think we know to find the truth?

The word for this is deconstruction—to put aside what we’ve heard or felt and get to the truth of a thing. Deconstruction of Christianity has been an unfortunate trend online for the last several years, but actually it’s been a struggle in the hearts of people for thousands of years. While this may sound harsh when it comes to Jesus, the truth is that even Jesus encouraged His disciples to do this very thing when he asked, “Who do you say I am?”

Jesus made the question personal to His disciples to reveal who He really is, and today He does the same for us. So, who do you say Jesus is?

### Key Scripture | Matthew 16:13-17

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

### Related Scriptures

— Isaiah 53, Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:7-8, Luke 19:9-10, John 1

### Icebreakers:

— Q: Share something funny that you misunderstood for a long time (examples: song lyric, idiom, or movie plot)

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## Key Thoughts and Reflections: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. Deconstructing Jesus

Q: If Jesus were sitting here today and asked, “Who do the people say I am?” how would you answer?

Q: Why do you think Jesus first asked what the people said and then turned to his disciples to ask what they believed?

Q: Does an opinion change when your proximity to a person changes? Why or why not?

### II. Deconstruction Choices

Q: During Holy Week, the opinion of the people changed rapidly. They went from celebrating the arrival of Jesus, their Meshiach (Messiah), to shouting “Crucify Him!” Why did their opinions change so rapidly?

Q: The people faced two choices: Get rid of their assumptions or get rid of Jesus. What assumptions can lead us to face similar choices today?

Q: Deconstruction can feel scary, but just as the layers of an onion must be peeled away to get to the savory center, we too must shed our assumptions to understand the truth. What are some assumptions you have had about Jesus?

### III. The King Revealed

Q: Read Zechariah 9:9. What was promised to the people of God?

Q: In our key scripture, Peter sets aside every opinion and speaks the truth. Read Matthew 16:16-17. What does Peter say? What was Jesus’ response?

Q: What was Jesus’ purpose for coming to earth according to Luke 19:9-10? Does this change the assumptions revealed today? Why or why not?

## Get Practical \_\_\_\_\_

When asked who he believed Jesus was, Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” If we truly want to get to the truth of the matter, we must go back to the beginning and hear from those who knew him. What you’ll find is that they knew Him as Savior King. And now, it’s your turn: “Who do you say that Jesus is?” Make a list of the assumptions you have about Jesus. Spend time this week asking God to reveal those assumptions He wants you to shed and those that are true. Dive into the scriptures shared today and recognize the truth of Who He is and what He has done for you. If you need prayer, reach out to your small group leader or text prayer to 37748 so we can pray with you.