

The wave of a hand,
the blink of an eye,
the beat of a heart

March Madness

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- Warmest March in recorded weather history

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- Warmest March in recorded weather history
- Incredible financial benefit
 - Increase in gas costs offset by heating savings

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- Too early for all this blooming
 - Can't find mushrooms easily

March Madness

- Groundhog was wrong!
- Too early for all this blooming
 - Can't find mushrooms easily
- Heavy frost or freeze potential
 - Ruin fruit crop
 - Ruin gardens

Human nature is fickle

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- Staying focused is hard work
- What ifs
 - Temptation to play that game
 - Surely it isn't as serious as it seems

Convergence of “Holidays”

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- April Fool's Day
 - Theories on how it began vary

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 - A time when skeptics and pranksters are revealed
 - A time when those who trust can be made a fool

Convergence of “Holidays”

- Palm Sunday

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“Now when they drew near Jerusalem... And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the Lord!” Hosanna in the highest!” And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?” So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.” *Matthew 21*

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- Connection between the fear of being made a fool and the fervor of the crowd
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- There were pranksters who plotted
- There were those who were trusting who were about to be hurt
- The hearts of all were about to be revealed

Was it foolish of the crowd to worship Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem?

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Was it foolish of the crowd to worship Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem?

- He was - and is - worthy of worship
- His actions were worthy of worship
- His intentions were worthy of worship

Who were the skeptics?

- Some who had seen His miracles

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- Some who had seen His miracles
- Some who had heard His teaching

Who were the skeptics?

- Some who had seen His miracles
- Some who had heard His teaching
- Some who were His closest followers

Who were the pranksters?

- Those who plotted to destroy Him

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- Those who were seeking a way out

Who were the pranksters?

- Those who plotted to destroy Him
- Those who were seeking a way out
- Those who realized He was not someone they could manipulate or control

Whose heart would be revealed?

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 - Desire to befriend is overridden by desire to preserve self

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- True Disciples
 - Realization of what was unfolding

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- Enemies
 - Desire to betray is quite clear in Scripture
 - Pharisees
 - Sanhedrin
 - Judas Iscariot

Whose heart would be revealed?

- Friends
 - Followers in the crowd
 - Those He had healed
 - Those He had blessed
 - Simon of Cyrene
 - Roman Centurion
 - Joseph of Arimathea

Whose heart would be revealed?

- True Disciples
 - Mary of Bethany
 - John, the disciple Jesus loved
 - Peter

What do we see of their hearts?

- Mary worshipped Jesus
 - Every encounter
 - Everything else came to a standstill when He showed up
 - She sacrificially gave to Him
 - Personally
 - Socially
 - She believed He was who He said He was
 - Ready to do what blessed Him
 - John 11

What do we see of their hearts?

- John worshipped Jesus
 - Every encounter
 - He sought the intimacy
 - Ready to do what blessed Him
 - John 13, John 19

What do we see of their hearts?

- Peter worshipped who he wanted Jesus to be
 - Every encounter
 - He sought the intimacy on his terms
 - Ready to do what blessed him
 - Matthew 26

What do we see of their hearts?

- Peter reveals the fickleness of humanity
 - Double minded
 - Hard to please
 - Easy to distract
 - Hard to stay focused
 - What if game
 - Too busy listening to own voice and desires to ever truly understand those of Jesus

Thank God there is hope for humanity

Hope arrives during Holy Week

- The Cross of Christ
 - Reality of who He is revealed
 - Worship Him on those terms
 - Who He is
 - What He did
 - What He does

What stays the same?

Fickleness of humanity

- Double minded
 - I sinned, but not that much
- Hard to please
 - I really don't deserve this/not worthy
- Easy to distract
 - All about me
- What if game
 - Worries, cares, anxiety

We have a choice to make...

True disciples who seek to see Him
for Who He is

Or

Fools who try to make Him
what we want Him to be

We have a choice to make...

We can wave our hands...

We can close our eyes...

But what makes our heart beat?

We have a choice to make...

“What will I do with Jesus?
Neutral I cannot be.
Someday my heart will be asking,
‘What will He do with me...’”