

“Crowd Control”

“And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” (Matthew 24:10-13)

Reception & Rejection of Jesus

Matthew 21:4-13 – (4) “This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, (5) ‘Say to the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’ (6) The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. (7) They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. (8) Most of ***the crowd*** spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. (9) And ***the crowds*** that went before him and that followed him were shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’ (10) And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, ‘Who is this?’ (11) And ***the crowds*** said, ‘This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.’ (12) And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. (13) He said to them, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.’”

5 Days Later...

Mark 15:8-15 – (8) “And ***the crowd*** came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. (9) And he answered them, saying, ‘Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?’ (10) For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. (11) But the chief priests stirred up ***the crowd*** to have him release for them Barabbas instead. (12) And Pilate again said to them, ‘Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?’ (13) And they cried out again, ‘Crucify him.’ (14) And Pilate said to them, ‘Why, what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more, ‘Crucify him.’ (15) So Pilate, wishing to satisfy ***the crowd***, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.”

Key Point: The Flesh “Crowds” out the Spirit

Response:

(1) Don't follow the Crowd (Flesh)

“But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; yet hath he not root in himself, but endureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.”

(Matthew 13:20-21 KJV)

“He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it will be counted a curse to him.” (Proverbs 27:14 NKJV)

(2) Let the Spirit Crowd out the Flesh

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.” (Galatians 5:16-17)

“...be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

As a Christian, am I committed for the long haul? (Dan. 12:11-12; Luke 8:15, 21:19)

What are some Barabbas-like options that I am tempted to sell out Jesus for? (Matt. 16:26, 26:15; 1 Tim. 6:9-10; 2 Tim. 4:10)

Am I living by the Holy Spirit, or for the flesh? (Rom. 8:5-6, 13)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)