



Sermon Discussion Guide

March 29th, 2026 | John 12:12-36 | Pastor Greg Doty

Series // The Gospel of John: Taste and See Who I Am

Summary

Pastor Greg began by describing unmet expectations, using a story about a highly recommended burger place that didn't match what he imagined. He explained that, similarly, people often have expectations about God that don't align with reality. In Jesus' time, many expected the Messiah to bring political freedom. In John 12:12–36, crowds gathered in Jerusalem for Passover, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna," hoping Jesus would immediately save them from Roman rule. Instead, Jesus entered on a donkey, showing humility and revealing that His mission was different. He came not to defeat Rome, but to conquer sin, death, and hell through His sacrifice. Even His disciples didn't fully understand this at first as John points out. Pastor Greg emphasized that humility is a defining trait of true believers, modeled by Jesus' willingness to lay down His own life. Jesus explained that He came as a sacrifice, taking on God's wrath for sin as the final Passover Lamb. He calls His followers to live with the same sacrificial love and service toward others. Although troubled by what was ahead, Jesus remained faithful and declared that His death would defeat Satan. He urged people to believe in Him as the light, through whom they receive forgiveness and become children of light. Ultimately, Jesus came to do far more than meet human expectations. He came to bring true salvation and transformation.

Discussion Questions (Read John 12:12-36):

- **Icebreaker Question:** What is the best burger you've ever had?

Humility

- When you think about your own life, what have you expected God to do that didn't happen the way you hoped?
- What stands out to you about Jesus choosing to enter on a donkey?
- What would it look like for you to follow Jesus' example of humility this week?

Sacrifice

- Are there areas where you struggle to fully accept His sacrifice or grace?
- What is one way you feel called to live more sacrificially for someone else right now?
- What's something that might be holding you back from putting others before yourself?

Light

- Are there any areas of your life where you feel like you're walking in darkness instead of light?
- What would it look like for you to more fully trust and follow Jesus this week?
- In your own life, are you more focused on temporary problems or eternal things?

Closing Reflection & Prayer

- What is one expectation you may need to surrender to God right now?

Ask God to help you trust Him when your expectations don't match reality. Pray for a humble heart, a willingness to sacrifice, and the courage to walk in His light.