

## COMPELLED BY THE CROSS

## STUDY FIVE

## Why Is Jesus So Fascinating?

*Mark 10:46–11:10*

*Jesus does the unpredictable that He might accomplish the incredible.*

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

JESUS wasn't like the other rabbis. He shocked people by blessing outcasts, touching untouchables, and keeping company with sinners. His words were refreshingly relevant and authoritative. Other leaders with large followings rode their popularity to fame and power, but Jesus shunned the spotlight, often slipping away to be alone and urging those He healed to tell no one.

Jesus did what no one else could do in ways that shook the religious establishment to the core . . . and people loved Him for it! His mission was to launch the kingdom of God—which could no more fit into conventional religious structures than new wine could be contained in old wineskins. Jesus purposefully split the seams of the status quo to show sinners what *real life* looks like—life with God, under His rule, and in His care.

Jesus is still as fascinating and engaging today as He was during His life on earth. Why? Because of who He is and the kingdom He offers—which is everything our hearts truly desire. Jesus is and has always been irresistibly appealing to anyone who has been disillusioned by this world and is thirsting for more.



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### PREPARE YOUR HEART

Has worldly fare left you empty? Do your religious routines seem dry and lifeless? Are you searching for more? Come to Jesus in prayer.

*Father, lead me to Your Son, the King of Your kingdom, who rules a realm I long to live in. A kingdom of peace and security, love and grace, trust and hope. As I study Your Word, fill me with the satisfying bread of life in Christ. In His name, amen.*



### TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Jesus' final steps to Jerusalem and the cross took Him through Jericho, an oasis with an ancient history. Joshua led the Israelites into the promised land through Jericho. The city was considered unconquerable until, with the blast of trumpets and shouts of God's people, God caused the thick walls to crumble (Joshua 6:1–27).

Jesus, whose name is the Greek form of *Joshua*, means “the Lord saves.” Like Joshua led the twelve tribes of Israel, Jesus led His twelve disciples as God's new people into the promised land of His kingdom. Few realized the significance of Jesus' march through Jericho to Jerusalem. In the spiritual realm, the walls of Satan's kingdom were collapsing like Jericho's ancient walls. Only those with eyes of faith could see Jesus as the savior—only those like the blind man, Bartimaeus.



### Observation: Jesus' Journey through Jericho into Jerusalem

This *Searching the Scriptures* study examines two closely linked passages—Jesus healing the blind man in [Mark 10:46–52](#) and Jesus entering Jerusalem in [11:1–10](#). Jesus healing the blind man in Jericho concludes His ministry phase. Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem begins His last week on earth prior to His crucifixion.



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### The Faith of Bartimaeus—Mark 10:46–52

What details did Mark relate in *Mark 10:46–47*?

Bartimaeus heard the name, “Jesus of Nazareth,” from people in the crowd, but he called Jesus, “Son of David” (Mark 10:47). Only Bartimaeus could see Jesus for who He truly was. What do you observe in *10:48–50* regarding the actions of the crowd, Bartimaeus, and Jesus? What contrasts do you see?

What was remarkable about Jesus’ response to Bartimaeus in *10:51–52*? In what ways did Bartimaeus demonstrate exceptional faith in Jesus and devotion to Him?

*Soon, Jesus would be betrayed, arrested, put on trial, tortured, and crucified. We wouldn't think He would have time for some beggar. But Jesus did the unpredictable. He stopped and asked Bartimaeus, “What do you want me to do for you?” —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



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### The Triumphal Entry of Jesus—Mark 11:1–11

With Bartimaeus crying out, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” (Mark 10:48), Jesus exited Jericho. Let’s observe Mark’s account of how Jesus entered Jerusalem.

What details did Mark record about how the two disciples secured the young donkey in *Mark 11:1–7*? What attribute of Jesus’ divinity did this event demonstrate?

What do you observe about Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem in *11:8–11*? What common threads do you see between Bartimaeus’ plea and the people’s praise in *11:9–10*?

*Roman victors entered on their warhorses. Jesus rode in on the back of a donkey colt. What an unpredictable way for Jesus to enter the city, but it was exactly as prophesied.*

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



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### Interpretation: The Messianic Title of Jesus

Jeremiah and Ezekiel prophesied that the messiah would come from David's line. What do the following passages say the long-awaited descendent of David would do?

*Jeremiah 23:5–6*

*Ezekiel 34:23–24*

Jeremiah prophesied, “In that day Judah will be saved” (Jeremiah 23:6). Interestingly, the Greek word for “healed” in Mark 10:52 means, “saved.” In healing Bartimaeus, Jesus did what the Son of David was prophesied to do.

How were the messianic prophecies from Jeremiah and Ezekiel echoed in the people's praise as they announced Jesus at His entrance into Jerusalem in *Mark 11:9–10*? (Note: *Hosanna* means “save now.”)



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Finally, reflect on *Zechariah 9:9–10*. What was Jesus announcing to the nation by entering Jerusalem on a young donkey?



### Correlation: The Way to Peace

Correlate Mark's account of the triumphal entry with Luke's. What added details do you find in *Luke 19:35–40*?

When Jesus saw Jerusalem, Luke recorded, Jesus wept, “How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace” (Luke 19:42). How tragic that the people of *Jerusalem*, which means, “city of peace,” refused the Prince of Peace and the kingdom of peace He came to offer.



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### Application: Opening Spiritually Blind Eyes

Those in the crowd tried to quiet Bartimaeus, telling him that he wasn't worth Jesus' time. Bartimaeus, however, ignored their critical words and cried out even louder. He believed in Jesus as his Savior and followed Him as his Lord. If only the whole nation had responded to Jesus with the bold faith of Bartimaeus!

Those who rejected Jesus lacked faith because of their spiritual blindness. What qualities did Bartimaeus have that helped him see Jesus truly? What attitudes blinded the others, including the religious leaders who eventually sent Jesus to His death?

Bartimaeus wasn't too proud to tell Jesus his need. How hard it is to ask for help! What might keep you from crying out to the Lord?



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You can trust Jesus to do the unpredictable in your life. What mercy can you ask from the Son of David?

Jesus entered Jerusalem as the Davidic king to bring God’s kingdom of peace on earth. We await Christ to come again, not “humble, riding on a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9) but riding “a white horse” and leading “the armies of heaven” to victory over evil (Revelation 19:11, 14). Until then, experience the *shalom* of His kingdom today as you live under His rule and in His care.



### A FINAL PRAYER

Join the Palm Sunday parade of Jesus’ disciples who threw their coats before Him and laid branches in His path. What praise do you offer God the Father for sending His Son, the King of Kings? Write your prayer in the space below.

*Father,*

