

## Understanding for Divine Moments

Matt. 21: 1-7; John 12: 14-16

Palm Sunday was a divine moment on God's timetable. It was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy concerning the Messiah. However, the people didn't know it, not even the disciples. They needed understanding.

The same is true today. God is doing something in our time but we don't always perceive it (Is. 43: 19). This is usually because our focus is on what we want from God, not what He wants from us.

How can we best handle divine moments, especially when we don't fully understand or perceive them?

### 1. Humility

In John 12: 46 Jesus says those who believe in Him will not abide in darkness. The term for "darkness" applies to ignorance, not just to sin and evil. We can be in the dark about what God is doing but if we believe in Him we will not abide in darkness. We can walk in the light as He is in the light (I John 1: 7).

This requires us to continue in His word. This is how we know the truth that makes us free (John 8: 31-32). The first step is humility. We don't know what we don't know. We must go to God with our ignorance and tell Him we don't know but want to know so we can better serve Him.

### 2. Faith

In the last chapter, John 11: 25-27, Martha tells Jesus she believes He is the Messiah, the Son of God, in response to His question. It's interesting that this is not exactly the question He asked her. He said He was the Resurrection and the Life, and those who believe in Him will never die. He asked if she believed this. She answered what she understood. She did not

understand all He just said, and certainly did not believe or expect Him to raise her brother from the dead. But she started where she was in her faith.

When we have faith, we believe what God has said, though we don't understand it all. We start there. Ask Him to teach you HOW to believe what He said, not just to believe. It will require trusting God to fulfill what He says in His own way.

Faith needs understanding to be effective. Otherwise it is not much more than wishful thinking, foolishness or presumption. Faith can grow when it is founded on God's revealed will and when it allows God to fulfill His will without imposing our own plan on how and when it should be done.

### 3. Pursuit

Heb. 11: 6

This faith must lead us to diligently seek God. This pleases God and results in greater understanding and favor with God.

We pursue Him in prayer.

We pursue Him in the study of His word.

We pursue Him in fellowship with other believers.

We pursue Him in discipleship, submission to someone who can mentor us in the things of God.

All of these things show God we are serious about seeking Him.

### 4. Obedience

Matt. 21: 1-7

In this passage the disciples were given instructions to bring Jesus a specific donkey and colt. Did the disciples obey? Yes. Did they understand? No, not according to what we saw in John 12: 16. But if we're

willing to be obedient to what we're told, God can still use us even when we don't understand it all at the time. We have to trust God's plan, to know He has a plan, and to allow Him to use us as a part of that plan.

How do we know if it's a divine moment? EVERY moment can be a divine moment in Christ. We should not try to first figure out if this is one.

When we follow these steps, God can use us in amazing ways to fulfill His plan, and we can grow in grace and in the knowledge of God in the process.