

“But God...” Pt.1

Mark Kring, Senior Pastor
March 29, 2026



1. “But God...” clarifies that God is in charge and that He will bring good out of distress and seemingly hopeless situations.
2. The week before Palm Sunday, Jesus stands in a cemetery grieving. But not because of Lazarus’s death or because He doesn’t know the outcome of the situation in John 11, but because of the grief and destruction that sin causes.
3. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the crowd cheers because they want a “king” of their own design. In their minds, they need to be saved from political turbulence, and they believe that God should align with their agenda.
4. Jesus’ tears for the city of Jerusalem are not because of the cross before Him, but because so many people will totally miss His true objective to save us from our sin.
5. In John 18:37, Jesus tells a political ruler that His purpose is to bring truth.
6. In our world today, Jesus is acceptable if he meets the world’s interpretation of God. The conflict comes in when His Word confronts sin.
7. Jesus responds to rejection with grief and tender compassion. His response is not rooted in shaming, judging, or disgust, but rather in genuine love for the lost.
8. For sinners like us, these two words: “But God,” signal the Gospel Truth that although we are unable to save ourselves because of rebellion against God, we can have eternal peace with the Father through Jesus.
9. Zephaniah 3:17 states that God rejoices over those who love Him with loud singing. For true followers of the Lord, this Old Testament reality is true of all believers because we have not rejected the Lord Jesus.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Ginōsko (ghin-ocē'-ko) :- **allow**, perceive, be **resolved**, understand

TODAY'S WORSHIP

The Joy
King Of Kings
Trust In God
Holy Forever

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Mark pointed out that the Palm Sunday crowd wanted a “designer Jesus,” one who matched their political agenda rather than God’s true purpose.
 - a. In what ways do people today (or perhaps you personally) tend to shape Jesus into something that fits their own expectations or desire for comfort?
 - b. What does it look like to surrender that “design” and accept Him on His terms?
2. Jesus wept twice in this teaching. Once at Lazarus’ tomb and once riding into Jerusalem.
 - a. What does it reveal about God’s character that He grieves over sin’s consequences and humanity’s rejection rather than responding with anger or disgust?
 - b. How does it change the way you think about God’s view of you?
3. The crowd received Jesus superficially. They cheered Him but were unwilling to allow (ginōsko) His real purpose to take root.
 - a. What is the difference between a surface-level reception of Jesus and a genuine one?
 - b. Where might superficiality show up in your own faith?
4. Pastor Mark said, “You cannot fix a spiritual problem with politics.”
 - a. How does this challenge the way Christians sometimes place their hope in political solutions?
 - b. What does it practically look like to pursue “peace with God” rather than peace with the world?
5. The phrase “But God...” carries the weight of hope breaking into hopeless situations.
 - a. Where in your life right now do you most need a “But God” moment?
 - b. As a group, take some time to call upon God to meet those needs.