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The Authentic Jesus

MATTHEW 21:1-11:

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

4This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: 5"Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

6The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. 8A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!"

10When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

11The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

MARK 10:42-45:

So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 43But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, 44and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. 45For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

• What is it about the humble servant that's so compelling?





Why such a stirring in the city?

Compare verse 5 characteristics of Jesus with campus attitudes toward Christ?

How has your chapter/fellowship confused the campus about a verse 5 Jesus?





Popular Caricatures of Jesus	Authentic Jesus
UNABLE TO BE MY ADVOCATE	CAREFUL WITH MY PAIN
TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE	I am God's child
DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR ME	He holds my hand
STEALS MY WILL	gives me what I don't deserve

Case Studies

What will create a godly commotion (or stirring) on campus? How does your campus experience the Authentic Jesus when...

- •...your chapter is invited to help the GLBTC run the AID's table @ homecoming?
- 2...a student on campus gets pregnant or is known to have recently had an abortion?
- ...when a professor makes statements that conflict with your core beliefs and invites discussion from the class?
- •...you're in the financial office (again) trying to iron out another glitch?
- ...you hear students in the commons voicing their discontent with God, church and religion?
- ...your flat mate says "I used to believe in God..."



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What is it about the humble servant that's so compelling?

• We wish we were like that; It's admirable by others; It works; We like being on the receiving end of it...despite feeling unworthy. It stands out.







Why such a stirring in the city?

The fanfare for Jesus was for royalty (laying of cloaks & branches, the shouting "Hosanna," the large crowd, the parading into town) but his presentation begged the question "Who is this?" since it was a humble and unassuming man riding on a donkey. Jesus isn't proclaiming himself... the people are. Isn't the whole Bible leading up to this point? God is returning to His city for the final stages of redeeming the world unto himself. The ruckus is part of drawing the attention of the whole world. We teach first then serve others...Jesus served and then did the up front stuff.

Compare verse 5 characteristics of Jesus with campus attitudes toward Christ?

Foretold, visible, personal, leader, close/accessible, humble, gentle vs. "I'm my own King and you are yours," "Jesus is a nice guy but not my King," "He's part of an oppressive institution, irrelevant, impersonal"How has your chapter/fellowship confused the campus about a verse 5 Jesus?

How has your chapter/fellowship confused the campus about a verse 5 Jesus?

Self serving, domesticate Jesus in LG, being a judgmental institution, don't play well with others (who don't "agree" with "us") We ride around on white stallions rather than donkeys...the foal of a donkey. The crowd gathered around Jesus because of his patterns and reputation of love and healing. If we were really telling God's story then it would be radically original like Jesus was radically (and authentically) himself when he entered the city. Why do we "touch up" a perfect picture of Jesus? Some Christians are manifesting a radically authentic Jesus to the poor and through worship but domesticate this same Jesus in LG with a sterile distant image.



Popular Caricatures of Jesus	Authentic Jesus
Wimpy	Gentle
UNABLE TO BE MY ADVOCATE	CAREFUL WITH MY PAIN
Fictitious TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE	Personal I AM God's CHILD
Distant DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR ME	Accessible He holds my hand
Micro-manager STEALS MY WILL	Servant GIVES ME WHAT I DON'T DESERVE

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