

✍ **I want to talk to you about their "Savior" not "The Savior", or, better yet, their designs on "The Savior".**

1. They had their own designs for how they wanted Jesus to be, and the real Jesus didn't fit that model.

- ✓ Designer-Jesus was going to ride into Jerusalem in glorious fashion, so, when the real Jesus sends the disciples to get His handpicked "steed," what He picks is disappointing to them, **Luke 19:35-44**. Not that kings didn't ride donkeys, but they did it in times of peace, and the people didn't want peace, they wanted war. Jesus comes riding in on a small donkey. Looking like, as one commentator said, Sancho Panza! "Designer-Jesus" gave way to "Disappointing-Jesus", disappointed because He didn't do what they wanted. We're going to find that Jesus will not always do what we want Him to do, but He will always do what we need Him to do. The problem for them and us is that we often don't know what we need. They should have been taking their cues from Jesus and not the other way around. Their problem was that they were in rebellion against the God of the universe and needed peace, so, He came, bringing God's peace. Never doubt it, Jesus knows how to ride in: **Revelation 19:11**. It is because He will be riding in like that someday. We needed Him to ride in like that on this day!
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2. Designer-Jesus was there to attack the oppressors, the real Jesus was there to attack their religion.

- ✓ This is nothing short of a miracle; that the donkey He rode that day didn't throw Him, is one more of those unrecognized miracles. We miss it because we don't understand the scope of what's taking place here.
 - ✓ Jesus cleared the temple, **Luke 19:45-46**, what does that mean? A chapel? How big? He cleared the court of the Gentiles. How big was this thing? Herod's Temple covered 40 acres; the place where only Jews were allowed was approximately 8 acres, leaving 32 acres for the court of the Gentiles! (Plus, or minus 16 city blocks on South Padre Island.)
 - ✓ Passover was a massive event for Jerusalem; every able-bodied male (plus their families) had to be in Jerusalem for Passover. We don't know what that number was, but we do know how many animals were being sold in the Temple to be sacrificed. Josephus tells us that a few years after the time of Christ, they sacrificed over 255,000 animals during Passover week. Jesus clears out all of these people, all of these animals, and turns over all of their furniture. How did He do that? Why did He do that? At the risk of stating the obvious, do you go to a feed lot for your quiet time? Would you go to the flea market to worship the Creator? The Temple was the soul of Israel; it was their heart. Can you imagine the smell of that place?
 - ✓ Their design for Him was to relieve them of foreign oppressors and social injustices. We too have a similar design for Jesus today, "Come and fix this mess and catch all the bad people." If Jesus were to come and purge today, He wouldn't be going to Washington or Austin or visiting political powers; He would be attending our churches, **1st Peter 4:17**.
 - ✓ Their nation was in chaos because the soul and heart of their nation were in chaos. Something was badly wrong there on the Mount of Olives that day: the people were excited, rejoicing, hopeful, quoting Scripture, and praising a Savior, but "The Savior" was weeping and angry. Who was right? Jesus or the majority? These same people were going to kill "The Savior" in less than four days. How could they get it so wrong? The same way we get it wrong today. They had their designs on Jesus: He was going to save them from the Romans, from oppression, from social injustice, etc. He was going to approve of what they approved of and disapprove of what they thought needed to go. Why wouldn't they praise Him? He was going to fix what they agreed needed fixing, and He was going to leave alone the things that they cherished. He was going to make them prosper, and He was going to bring them peace, but on their terms. Why wouldn't they praise Him?
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3. Because of their designs on Jesus, He wept for them.

- ✓ Do you have designs on Jesus? Is the Savior weeping for you? For us today? It is shocking how popular Jesus is in our western culture today. We have the largest churches in the history of the church, with larger memberships than have ever attended church since the day Jesus was resurrected. This sounds like a good thing, but where is the effect on our world? Jesus started with less than a dozen disciples and 120 followers gathered in the upper room, and they turned their world upside down. Today, we have 133 million people involved in our churches, but where's the effect?
- ✓ Today, the church has everything it ever wanted: bigger buildings, more money, more people, and greater influence, but where's the effect? The evidence seems to demonstrate that, though we are bigger than we've ever been, most are gathered around Jesus for the wrong reasons. We are doing just like they did on that Palm Sunday, and Jesus is weeping over the vast majority of them.

Today, just like on that Palm Sunday, the "Designer-Jesus" draws big crowds, evokes songs of praise (do you realize the Christian music industry is nearly a billion dollars annually?). But where's the effect on our culture and our world? Where's the life change? Where is the repentance that leads to soul searching and asking questions from our world? Where are all the changed lives as a result? It's lamentable, isn't it? That's exactly how Jesus felt.
