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Written by Nathanael Vissia

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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for March 24, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Lent

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16](#) [**Summary:** *Jesus Exceeds Expectations*]

Supplies Needed: A tennis ball or other type of ball that bounces and can be held (and caught!).

ASK (a.k.a. [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- [Show tennis ball] Can you tell me what this is? (a tennis ball)
- And if I drop it from up here [hold ball up high] what do you think – what do you *expect* – the ball will do? (fall; bounce)
- How high do you think – do you *expect* – the ball to bounce?
- [hold hand above ground.] This high? Higher? [move hand up] Like up here?
- OK -- let's find out what happens when I drop it...1....2....3...DROP!
- [Drop the ball but then **catch it** (most likely with your other hand) before it hits the ground]
- Whoa! Did the ball bounce like you expected it to? (NOOO!)
- Why not? (Because you caught it!)
- How do you feel about this thing that didn't happen even though you expected it to happen?

TELL (a.k.a. [The Freeway](#))

- A word I used a lot, just a minute ago, was the word, "expected."
- To "expect" something or have "expectations" about something means we have thoughts and feelings about how something *should* happen.
- One problem with expecting something, though, is that things don't always happen like we thought they were going to happen -- like with this tennis ball.

- When expectations are not met, we might feel upset or cheated or sad and let down.
- I bring this up because the crowd that surrounded Jesus in today's scripture story was expecting certain things from Jesus.
- They expected Jesus to be their next king, which is why they were having a parade for him.
- But guess what!? That's *not* what Jesus was going to do or become.
- And that *did* upset some of the people, because that's not what they were expecting.

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- Thankfully, Jesus did not try to do the things that the crowd expected him to do even though that upset some of them.
- Instead, Jesus listened to what God was telling him to do and then Jesus did *those* things.
- And because Jesus did what God was telling him to do, then something happened for Jesus that was far better than what the people expected.
- Instead of becoming a king, Jesus showed us something better – Jesus showed us that the life God offers us is something that cannot be taken away, no matter what happens.
- When we trust God with our most important things, like Jesus did, then what God provides us is something bigger and greater than we could ever have expected!
- And that's the good news for today.
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who shows us...

...who shows us...

...how to live a way...

...how to live a way...

...your way...

...your way...

...that exceeds our greatest expectations.

...that exceeds our greatest expectations.

Thank you and Amen