

Don't you just wish you could have really been there? On that day when Jesus rode that donkey into the capital city, treated by many as a celebrity? We learn from the accounts that one of his personality traits was humility, and, heaven knows, we crave firsthand accounts of just what he was really like. What was it like to be around him personally? What were his character traits? What was this Christ, this Son of God, this essential person of the Holy Trinity really like?

I'm going to read you the next installment of Matthew's account of that Holy week in Jerusalem, and in addition to the facts the author remembers, I encourage you to listen for the clues he gives to Jesus' personality. This part of the famous story is richly seasoned with revelations about the mind and ways of the Christ. How does he react to all those situations which are so familiar to the human condition?

For example, how does he deal with betrayal, with disappointment, with humiliation, with pain and suffering, with abandonment, with injustice, fatigue, and the real prospect of death? Listen for the clues to how he models for us the divine character, the behavior of God in human vesture. If you want to know more about Jesus, if you want to know him personally and know him better, listen to what he says and what he does.

And ask yourself...if we want to be like him, would we be able to react to all this world's random issues like he does? Would we even begin to come close to the nature of his character? And would he want us to? Would God expect us to? Permit yourself to ask such questions, and let the awareness of these questions lead you forward in his steps. Let's pull back the curtain and hear about the real Jesus, the human who is indeed God's Son.

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew: