

# People Are Fickle They Don't Know What They Want

Dan Nelson

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When I am ordering from the drive through window, I must make the person crazy as she waits while I peruse the dizzying list of pictures and options available to order for our family. With all of the options in front of me, and the special orders projected forward from the backseat, I can rarely find what I am looking for among the neon and radiant colors. When I finally get my order placed and am instructed to pull forward to the window, there is the momentary sense of questioning, "Is it too late to change my order?" And I have learned that many live that way; people are fickle, confused, and so blinded by the options and colorful graphics surrounding us, that we find ourselves "ordering too much from the menu to make sure that nothing good is left out". Then we become sick because we over-did it; our lack of priorities and indecision cause our lives to resemble bent-over indigestion. Of course I am speaking metaphorically, but I think you probably get the point. The hamburger that I most despise, Carl's Jr's Western Bacon Burger, used to be my favorite until one day it made me sick, now I will never touch another one. As a child we would sell Almond Roca candy as a fund raiser for my school, however when sales slumped and we were left "holding the candy bag", my sister and I ate so many that if I never see another Almond Roca again, I will be OK with that. We over-do, over-schedule, over-commit, and over-achieve to make up for the possibility of missing out on something good. As a result, we are racing around trying to keep all of our commitments; transporting the kids to all of their practices and games, getting to our classes, social gatherings, church meetings, and pro-sports events. We are careful to never missing a sunny beach day, tee-off time, fishing opportunity, downtown concert, or anything good on TV. People are running around trying to do it all while missing it all. So we have satellite television options which allow us to catch a program we missed from a different time zone, digital recorders and on-demand viewing to cater to our whim with picture-in-picture so I can catch-up by watching two shows at the same time; and life's craziness continues to escalate. But don't panic. You have been working overtime just to get enough money to pay the bills for the home you live in (that is really too small for your family but realize you are priced out of the market for larger homes). And you didn't have time to pick up some milk for the kid's breakfast because you had to return the library books from the science fair project, but there is good news. Vons is open 24 hours so you can get your milk, some Pepto-Bismol, and a strong coffee, because you have got a busy day tomorrow.

This Sunday is called Palm Sunday. It

is the day when Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The significance of the Palm branches is simple, most of the people accepting Jesus' messages were among the weak and poor and their means to put on a decent parade were limited. So they go and grab branches from trees and while waving them together, the procession would appear quite impressive. Yet with this acknowledgement and heralding, one would think Jesus would rejoice but He didn't. He wept and pronounced judgment on the city. Why? Because He knew their hearts were fickle and within a week, their proclamation would change from "King and Lord" to "kill Him, get rid of Him". The spiritual options and teachings were bewildering and they truly were blind, as Jesus described. One day they were ready to make Him king over them, shortly thereafter, they felt humanity better off without Him. They were ready to move on. They were fickle. Many went back to their jobs and families oblivious to the rest of the story. The day Jesus died, most people were about their busy lives; at their jobs, meetings, sales appointments, and taking care of the children. Today, in our town, most people are about their lives, worrying, hurrying and scurrying, not knowing what is important, and missing it. What about you, are you too busy to live life today? Jesus said I came to give you real "life". Will you live what He came to give? Get out your Palm Pilot and "schedule in" time with Jesus, and don't change your mind tomorrow.

Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. This article was published in 2004. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.



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#### **Sunday Worship:**

**9:00 & 10:30am**  
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley  
195 Mahoney Ave, Oak View

#### **Mid-Week Study:**

**7:00pm Thursday**  
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley  
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View