

Title: Pop Idol - John 12:12-19

Read:

¹²⁻¹⁵The next day the huge crowd that had arrived for the Feast heard that Jesus was entering Jerusalem. They broke off palm branches and went out to meet him. And they cheered: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in God's name! Yes! The King of Israel! Jesus got a young donkey and rode it, just as the Scripture has it: No fear, Daughter Zion: See how your king comes, riding a donkey's colt. ¹⁶The disciples didn't notice the fulfilment of many Scriptures at the time, but after Jesus was glorified, they remembered that what was written about him matched what was done to him. ¹⁷⁻¹⁹The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, was there giving eyewitness accounts. It was because they had spread the word of this latest God-sign that the crowd swelled to a welcoming parade. The Pharisees took one look and threw up their hands: "It's out of control. The world's in a stampede after him."

Think:

Can you imagine worshipping Jesus with such freedom that you cheer and wave palm branches as he rides a donkey into Jerusalem? Ok, let's put it like this, your favourite football star, strolls out onto the pitch, after your team win the championship. The place goes wild with ticker tape and the whole crowd including you scream like lunatics. Or maybe your favourite film star, walks into your college canteen, do you think they might get a bit of attention from you and your mates? You see, these days there are plenty of things in our lives that we can get enthused about. There are plenty of pop stars, film stars, or so called celebrities that we can get infatuated about. We read about them in magazines, we watch them on reality TV, we listen to them at every opportunity. There is only one problem with that. They are false idols. Not only will those guys fade away, they will let you down, because they are only human. No different to you and me. Also our God has a few things to say about worshipping false idols, the least of which is don't do it. If only we could get as enthused about worshipping Jesus, as we do about sport, film and pop stars. Maybe then we would catch a glimpse of what Jesus really wants us to see and feel.

Pray:

Lord I am sorry for the times I have put my interest in some star or other, in front of spending time with you. Please Lord, forgive me. Amen.

Action:

What is it that gets between you and Jesus? Jesus wants you to enjoy whatever it is that gets you excited, but he wants a relationship with you more. Why not take a little time away from whatever gets in the way, how about a month? Commit to spending that time you would have spent on that activity with Jesus instead. Bye.