

## **Not What I Ordered**

LCDR R. C. Richards

Command Chaplain

There is one particular fast food establishment near the base that my wife and I will occasionally drive through for a quick lunch. I don't think we have gotten our order correct more than twice. Usually, we will pull up to the speaker, place our order, drive around to the window and pay, then pull forward to receive our food. We are usually surprised to see what is actually delivered to us.

Seldom do we get what we asked for. There have been times that I would call and speak to the manager. Other times, we pull back around and ask for the correct items. The food in the bag is not what is printed on the receipt, so it is obviously their mistake. Other time we have decided not to worry about it and drive on back. We laugh about it, knowing that whatever we order, it won't be what we get. We have not yet received anything of greater value than what we ordered.

This Sunday, much of the Christian world will celebrate Palm Sunday. This is another instance when the people didn't exactly get what they were asking for. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, he did so in such a manner that it was obvious to most of the populace that he was coming in fulfillment of the Prophets. He was coming as the Messiah. The people shouted and rejoiced as he came in, thus giving the name, "Triumphal Entry," to the event.

Unfortunately, the people were asking for a leader to help them through off the oppression they experienced under Roman rule. They had observed the great powers Jesus had. Surely, the one who could give sight to a man born blind, heal the sick, even raise the dead, had the power to throw off the domination of the Romans.

The problem was, it was determined beforehand what role Jesus would play. The people simply did not understand. It is different from my drive-in experience in that I am allowed to order what I want and it is generally understood that I will get what I ask for. However, God had already determined what role Jesus was going to serve and the people misunderstood what He was doing.

God understood that His people had a greater problem than the Romans. He knew that the greater need was for His people to be restored to a proper relationship with Him. Sin had come between His people and Him, but even their religious practice had interfered with their ability to respond to Him. He knew that the only way to restore them was to once and for all pay the price for their sin, a debt so great that no one could pay it. Only God could. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, he was publicly announcing that he was the one sent to release them from bondage, not from the Romans, but to sin.

The people didn't get what they asked for. They got something of far greater value. They got redemption. What are you asking for?

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.