

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Hosanna!

Matthew 21:1-11, John 12:12-19

Recently:

- Picking up our cross, and following Him
- The call of Christ is to come and die

Skipping ahead after the transfiguration (God in Jesus physically revealed) - skipping past for Easter, tough teachings, healings

Jesus revealing himself as king to Jerusalem

To all Israel

To the world

Pilate would have the inscription nailed

Matthew 27:37 NKJV - And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

And not just any king

The King of Kings

What's your idea of a king?

A leader? A president? A boss?

- What qualities should they have?
What should they look like?
- Sound like?
- What do they wear? Drive? Own?

Nixon vs. Kennedy

Radio said Nixon won

TV audience said Kennedy

(now, demographics can skew results but...)

Doc in BTTF "Ronald Reagan, the actor!? ... It's no wonder your president has to be an actor, he has to look good on TV"

Does our idea of God match up with who He really is?
Does our idea of how He should rule look like how He really works?
If Jesus showed up this morning, would we even recognize Him?
At least, for who He is and what He intends to do?

[Pray]

21:1-5

Jesus stopped outside the city, the Mount of Olives

A place David went, a place prophesied about (Ezekiel), Zech 14:5 the mountain will split with God on it, Jesus teaches there in a few chapters and rests there

And at the foot...the Garden of Gethsemane

Two disciples? Not told here who

Go take the donkey and her young colt

Horses - power, authority, war (Revelation)

Donkey - peace, servant animal, cheaper animal, (Mary rode a donkey)

And Jesus rides even the younger donkey.

One not ridden.

This is not the image of a King or someone in authority we'd think of

Lowly, humble, servant, coming in peace, not war

But also on one no one had ever ridden

Unbroken animal

But this king was not like any other king

He was going where no other king would go

Do what no other king would do

And His kingdom is not like any other kingdom

Go take the donkey

Was it stealing?

Jesus knew they were someone else's

But He also knew they feared God and would serve Him

Mark 11:4-6 NKJV - So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it. But some of those who stood there said to them, "What are you doing, loosing the colt?" And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go.

*I don't believe this was a generality. I believe Jesus knew them and their heart.
Just like Nathaniel under the tree.*

John 1:47-50 NKJV - Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

This was prophecy being fulfilled

Daniel's 70 weeks (9:24-27)

70 7s (weeks of years)

490 years to do what?

- "Finish the transgression"
- "Make an end of sin"
- "Make atonement for iniquity"
- "Bring in everlasting righteousness"
- "Seal up vision and prophecy"
- "Anoint the most holy place"

A few theories, all end up around the same timeline

March 14, 445 BC Artaxerxes issues decree to Nehemiah to rebuild walls of Jerusalem (Neh 2:1-8)

April 6, 32 AD

483 years until cutting off of Messiah

7 more years - Tribulation period

Israel rejects their King, is destroyed

The world rejects their savior, and is destroyed

We have a choice:

Choose life, freedom, joy in Jesus

Choose death, slavery and suffering in sin

The fact that Jesus fulfills this prophecy is very big (not to mention the others)

The timing is not coincidence

He's not just a man

Or a good teacher

But He's God's son, sent at God's time, to be anointed King

His anointing? His own blood.

:6-9

Disciples did it, laid their clothes - a saddle of sorts

Very great multitude

Largest crowd yet

Clothes down - chivalry! (anniversary tomorrow)

Political gesture - Recognition, loyalty and promise of support

Branches down

Palm branches were a symbol of Jewish nationalism since the time of the Maccabees. This was a patriotic rally, and the crowds looked to Jesus as a political and national savior, but not a spiritual savior. - Guzik

Their eyes were on their physical problems

The Roman occupation

Their lack of freedom from Caesar

Not their slavery to sin

And their need for a spiritual ruler

Religion and politics do mix. One is directly a result of what we worship.

The crowds loved Jesus. He, in their minds, was going to free them, bring back the glory of Israel, Jerusalem. Replace Herod.

Many in town are getting ready for Passover at the end of the week. The largest festival.

Huge crowds show up when people are given what they want

A good spectacle (superbowl sunday)

A good deal (black friday)

Political promises (election day)

**But what happens with the crowd doesn't get what they want?
The crowd will become a mob.**

They worship! They sing a song!

Hosanna! "OH SAVE!"

Save us, Son of David

(they recognize his earthly lineage and right to be king)

**They recognize he comes in the NAME of the Lord
They praise God for Him!**

**But they don't see that HE is the NAME of the Lord
HE IS GOD**

:10-11

The city was moved

Huge crowds outside

Huge crowds singing going before and after

Clothes, branches

We take it for granted. It's a cute Sunday school coloring page.

But this was huge.

Who is this?

Not everyone had even heard of Jesus yet

And those who had were still unsure of who He was

(I mean, who else had healed so many like that? Spoken like that?)

The crowd gets his name and birthplace right, but relegate him to prophet status

We saw in the transfiguration that He is not just a prophet,
he is THE PROPHET, God's son

John 12:12-19

His disciples did not understand these things

**It's amazing that the truth can be right in front of us
But we can't see it**

**Maybe we're not paying attention
Maybe we're too in awe of circumstances or events
Maybe we're looking to the crowd for wisdom**

This was after raising Lazarus from the dead
People had seen that

This was an amazing miracle only a few prophets had risen anyone from the dead,
and certainly not four days in the grave dead

**The Pharisees frustrated
The world has gone after Him!**

Oh if only the world would go after Jesus!
The crowds follow. But we'll see next week...the crowds are fickle
The crowds become mobs when their attitude changes

The world goes after a Jesus in it's image
One that "gets them"
One that is a good prophet, nice guy, maybe even miracle worker

But the Pharisees were right - they were accomplishing nothing

**Religion, tradition, pedigree or education has not match for the real work of God
The real person of God**

**The question for you and me is
Who have we gone after?
Who do we worship?**
Is it Jesus? Is it the Jesus of the Bible? The Jesus of reality?
The King of Kings?
Or are we stuck worshipping some king of the earth, our own design?

**Praise Him for who He is
Praise Him no matter who else is following
Praise Him no matter what circumstances you find yourself in
Realize that He's your spiritual salvation, which will truly make you free**