

# **“Blessed is the King of Israel”**

## **Palm Sunday**

**Presidents, Kings, red carpet, clients, etc.**

### **What do we personally value?**

- Putting it out before important people, but why?
- To get their attention?
- Because they deserve it?
- Why? Just because they are rich?
- Will buy things from us, benefit us in some way?

### **What’s our motive to worship?**

- Is it just motions for selfish motive?
- Is it truly laying something down in worship?

Before we get to the events of Palm Sunday

### **Who is Jesus?**

#### **John 1:1-5,16-18**

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**He was in the beginning with God.**

**All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.**

**In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

**And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**

**And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.**

**For the law was given through Moses, [but] grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

**No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared [Him].**

**This “man” we’re looking at, is really God in flesh.**

The living Word of God. Creator of everything. Has the power over death and hell.

#### **Psalm 124:8**

**Our help [is] in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.**

**He is Lord of All.**

## John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover

### **Lazarus who had been dead**

What a thing

Is that your claim to fame? Being raised from the dead?

Testimony or talent, only one will last

### **Made Him a supper**

I love this...Jesus loved to have a meal. To spend time with and fellowship with the people around him, he was close with

### **Martha served...but Lazarus sat**

**The intimacy of the resurrection.** I don't know that Lazarus would want to be anywhere else Sitting vs. serving, mary vs. martha, but when our lives are truly raised from the dead, sitting and fellowshiping with jesus becomes the most important thing - more than doing anything for him

Invite to the table...like a presidential feast

Wouldn't you rather sit at the table?

**Like the prodigal, understanding his failure,  
would rather be a servant in his father's house**

**Oil of spikenard, maybe a year's worth, 300 denarii**

**"Spices and ointments were often used as an investment because they occupied a small space, were portable, and were easily negotiable in the open market.**

iii. Mary's gift was remarkably unselfconscious. Not only did she give the gift of the expensive oil, she also wiped His feet with her hair. **This means that she let down her hair in public, something a Jewish woman would rarely (if ever) do.**

iv. In all of this, Mary is a study of devotion to Jesus. "The life of Mary is painted for us, in three memorable pictures, in each of which she is at the feet of Jesus. " (Eerdman)" David Guzik commentary

**The emotion - love, dependence, need...worship of who he is and what he represented  
The motive - his burial**

**The worship - finances, security, dignity**

**The position - at his feet, intimate**

**The price - didn't matter, she knew the worth of Jesus**

**Judas - his root motive was financial gain**

**The day of my burial...**

But this was still a week out, **but it was time**

**Jesus knew this season of his life, of even living, was coming to a close**

Feeding a few people temporarily had no match to the importance of what Jesus was about to go through for all people - rich and poor

## **9-11**

Great many Jews came to see Jesus **but also Lazarus**

- The spectacle for some
- The sign for others
- The savior for all

**But, the chief priests...here we go again. Seriously?**

Put Lazarus to death...what again?

Couldn't Jesus just raise him again?

They hated the resurrection because it truly showed that God's power was with Jesus and not in their own efforts

**The fight against eternal life.**

The fight against any authority but theirs...to put down the work of God

To keep people captive to their earthly kingdom

**The resurrection was a window into something else entirely,**

a Kingdom with no end

Not bound by earthly, human constraints

**Lazarus' resurrection was the reason many people turned to Jesus**

**When you see it for what it really is, you can't help but believe**

**What's going to get people saved around us?**

- It's not a fun atmosphere (although it may help)
- It's not being cool, understanding the culture
- It's not being a good person
- Social justice - feeding the poor
- **It's the resurrected life**

**The extent of the resurrection of your life is the extent that people will see God**

- Good works for their own motives will only point people to you and make them feel inferior and unloved and unable to attain salvation that they may desire
- Abusing grace and not living the resurrected life that you have will only make people think salvation is worthless
- Living a resurrected life, **simply at the table with Jesus**, will bring people into a real encounter with God - they will either love Him and follow Him, or hate you and persecute you - all based on their heart position

**The resurrection is the basis to believe Jesus.**

- Otherwise what? He made some claims and not all would have come true
- He healed some people, but at the end of the day, didn't have the ultimate healing power
- Claimed to be God, but must not be, because God can't stay dead

**The resurrection is the REASON**

**1 Corinthians 15:19**

**If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.**

**The Bible makes a lot of bold claims. And those claims are true.**

## **12-19**

**Branches of Palm Trees**

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

**Red, white and blue**

**Flags  
Eagles**

**Also, common - what was around them**

*Picking flowers for your loved one from the path up to their front door...not so romantic in reality*

**Some probably genuinely worshipping their incoming King**

**Some probably just wanted political freedoms, gains, power**

**Some probably were fickle and would turn on him**

**Others probably would be faithful**

**Things would be different in only a week. The crowd is fickle.**

**But they all cried, Save Now - Hosanna**

**“Oh save” in a way of adoration**

Crowds for famous people, musicians, “we love you”

**Riding a donkey - peace, not war**

Horse would have been symbolic of a conqueror riding in to conquer (four horsemen)

Donkey meant he came in peace

**Second coming is on a horse**

**Revelation 19:11-16**

**Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him [was] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.**

**His eyes [were] like a flame of fire, and on His head [were] many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.**

**He [was] clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.**

**Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**

**And He has on [His] robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

**The King of Israel**

Wanted an earthly king, some would be disappointed in that his earthly reign began spiritually and not politically

People being freed from sin and death and judgment is the beginning of the kingdom of heaven

Fulfilling scripture Zech 9:9

**“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!**

**Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!**

**Behold, your King is coming to you;**

**He is just and having salvation,**

**Lowly and riding on a donkey,**

**A colt, the foal of a donkey.**

**The disciples didn’t understand at first** - a recurring theme before Pentecost

**But, when Jesus was glorified...**

So this palm sunday here, he wasn’t glorified?

**Not nearly as He should be and really is!**

Palm branches, temporary political gain vs. true worship and eternal kingdom

Man on donkey vs God on the throne

**People bore witness - conversations were happening that Jesus was more than a political president**

**He was the REAL King of Israel**

*Time before Kings, Israel was ruled by God, until they weren’t happy and wanted a king like the heathens around them*

*We have no king but Caesar - **some would shout less than a week later***

**Pharisees accomplishing nothing**

**The world has gone after him!**

**You can’t fight the truth.**

**Psalm 127:1**

**A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.**

**King Solomon knew that no matter all the earthly strength, influence, works, that if God wasn't doing it, there was only vanity...like a temporary kingdom**

- Making ourselves better
- 12 steps
- Being a good person
- Doing good works
- Trying to outweigh the bad with the good
- Karma
- Tolerance
- PC

**All have no eternal value, in fact, these physical principles, when applied to our spiritual life, only lead to eternal loss and spiritual death.**

**Even when done in Jesus' name...Hosanna! Hosanna! King of Israel.**

**God wants to be the King of each of us, individually.**

**To raise us from the dead, like Lazarus**

**To make us living proof of God's power over sin and death.**

***He knew that would take more than a triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a young donkey***

- It would take a violent, horrific death.
- A burial
- And a resurrection

**It took all of the above. All the scripture had to be fulfilled by the Word of God**

**Will we worship him for who he is? Will we simply lay down a palm branch in temporary worship, or will we lay our lives down in front of him? Washing his feet with our lives?**

**Will we remain dead in the grave? Or will we let him raise us up to sit at his table forever?**

**Be resurrected.**

**"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"**

**John 11:25-26**