

2025 04 13 / Matthew 21:1-17
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Jesus, the King

What I would like to do this morning is to help you hear Jesus' own declaration of his kingship; "I am your king." What is his nature of kingship here on Earth as a Lamb? And the nature of kingship when he comes a second time as Lion?

And I want you to see and feel the difference of both natures. Now is the time of salvation. Now is the time of favor. What a wonderful word it is! Once you choose the right side, and you are covered by Jesus' righteousness. Then, the way God looks at you is with absolute favor. Even in your impoverished state, he is looking at you with favor, because he knows what is possible. He also knows how he heals you only if you receive him as a King at the center of your heart. If you have not chosen yet, you can still choose the right side this morning and be saved from his ultimate time of judgment.

There is still time. Even now, this morning is the time when you can receive his presence and the amnesty that King Jesus holds out to you. If you renounce your allegiance to self, success, money, family, physical pleasure, and security and whatever else rules you more than Jesus, you can receive Christ as your King. You can be on his side in his favor with everlasting joy. We are now in the wonder of the brief season of salvation, where the favor of God shapes us into Christlikeness by the Holy Spirit in everyday situations. It is not forever. Perhaps very soon, the day is coming when the kingship of Jesus will be very different than it is now. His second coming is written in **Revelation 19:11-19**.

"Then I saw Heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of Heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh, he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

When the kingship of Jesus appears in the skies like that, it will be too late. Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2)

In today's scripture, we read that Jesus orchestrates the whole scene. Jesus was absolutely in control.

V 9 says that there was a very large crowd. They were people from Bethany and Bethphage, two cities closely located to Jerusalem. They were those who saw that Jesus raised Lazarus. Jesus wants us to see that He is the King. Yet, his kingship is not provincial or tribal or national, but international and global and universal. The tension and drama happen here. Disciples were thrilled or terrified because they knew this proclamation would lead to the overthrow of the Roman Empire or to their being killed.

1

Jesus declares His Kingship by Riding on a Donkey. In v. 1-5, Jesus sends two of his disciples to get a donkey. "'Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me.'" Why does he want to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey? Never before has he done such a thing! Who rides a donkey? Servants ride a donkey. Matthew quotes the prophecy in **Zachariah 9:9 "Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt."**

What kind of king rides a donkey? The King who took the position of a servant. What would happen when a general rides on a donkey in a battlefield? You can imagine. Jesus, the King, is confrontational, paradoxical, transformational, and enigmatic. He was humble, but not at all modest. He had compassion, sensitivity, tenderness, but not at all modest. He speaks clearly out, "Yes, I am the King."

He is forcing his identity on you. He lets you hear clearly; "Crown me as King in your life!" But he is, for now, meek, lowly, welcoming, seeking, forgiving, patient. He will shed his own blood to save all who will accept his free gift of eternal life. However, the name of Jesus is not mechanical power. Not abstract, not magical. It is a kingly name and kingly power. It doesn't work without your submission to Jesus. Jesus is saying, unless I am King, I am nothing to you. I am not your savior, not your helper, not your brother, not your transformer unless I am King.

There is an interesting and a little funny story in Acts. The seven sons of Sceva to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

Jesus has chosen to act out the fulfillment of Zachariah's prophecy and to declare his kingship in the action of riding on a donkey. This means, "Yes, I am the King, for that's what the prophet says: "Behold your king." But he is saying, "I am gentle and lowly. I am coming to save you." Today is the day of salvation.

2

Jesus declares his kingship by cleansing the Temple. In verses 12-13, Jesus fulfills the prophecy with fiery passion for the glory of God. He entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. Then Jesus quotes **Isaiah 56:7 for what he is doing, "My house shall be called a house of prayer."** He said the temple is MY house. It means "I am God."

This Isaiah quote so significant. The context of the chapter is global. "For the Sovereign LORD, who brings back the outcasts of Israel, says: I will bring others, too, besides my people Israel." Jesus is global king, the king of the universe. He proclaims that he is the king for all people.

3

Third, Jesus Declares His Kingship by Healing. In verse 14, it says, "And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them." What an impact this must have had! It was the most public place. We are talking about blind people and people who can't walk – lame, paralyzed people. It was prophesied in **Isaiah 35: 4-6, "Take courage, fear not... The recompense of God will come, but He will save you. Then the eyes of the blind will be opened. And... Then the lame will leap like a deer".** It is not just a kingship over other kings but over disease and all nature. We will not just be safe from sickness when He comes. We will be safe and whole – absolutely whole.

4

Jesus declares his kingship by His response to children. In verse 15, the children were shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David." In other words, "The king is here, the king is here!" But the chief priests became angry. So they said in verse 16, "Do you hear what these children are saying?" Jesus answers their question with one simple word. "Yes, I do. I not only hear it. I planned it. And I receive it. I would gladly receive it from you." And he would gladly receive it from us!

Jesus quotes absolutely astonishing words from **Psalms 8. "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth, who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! 2 From the mouth of infants and nursing babes, You have established strength [or: praise] because of your adversaries."**

5

The King, Jesus, has come and is coming. When he comes to judge the earth, **Isaiah 55:12 states that trees and mountains clap their hands.** But Jonathan Edwards interprets that when he comes back, our capacity as human beings will be increased incredibly. We are designed for so much more than now. Mountains and hills will clap and shout! Psalms write of the foretaste of the great day when the King truly comes back. He said that we are going to have 100 senses, 1000 senses compared to you have right now. Not superman, but supra man! Can we imagine what it is like? What is promised to us is absolutely astounding.

He is coming again, as the King over all kings. King of Israel, King of all the nations, King of nature and the universe. Until he comes again, there is a day of amnesty, patience, and beautiful favor. He still rides a donkey and not yet a white warhorse with a rod of iron. He is ready to save all who receive him as Savior and Treasure and King. Come to him. Receive him. Know him. Live your life in allegiance to him, in favor of him.