



Week 12: Palm Sunday

1. What comes to your mind when you think of a king?
2. **Read John 12:12-16.** Palm branches were symbols of nationalistic fervor in Jerusalem. Politically, the people were hoping Jesus came to overthrow the Roman empire. In what ways do you think Christ followers still expect Jesus to overthrow empires instead of bringing his new kingdom to earth?
3. Jesus came into town on a donkey. It was a staggering picture of his humility. What strikes you the most about Jesus' choice to not meet anyone's expectations with a grand entrance? And what does it reveal that he chose to ride in on a common animal instead of a war horse or stallion?
4. **Read Zechariah 9:9-10.** How does this passage show us a different kind of kingship? Why is it significant that Jesus' kingship is marked by humility?
5. The crowds who gathered for Passover were eager to welcome Christ, so long as he met their requirements and fit nicely into their pre-formed ideas. In what ways do you continue to struggle with trying to fit Jesus into your thoughts of "how things ought to be"? Are there specific situations during this current season in our nation/world that have uniquely revealed this struggle in your heart? What biblical truths are of help to your heart at this time?
6. Many of us do not like the idea of submitting or surrendering to someone else's authority. But the Christian life is one of submission to Jesus as king. How is Jesus a better king than other things or people we can give our lives to?

John 12:12-16 (CEB)

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him. They shouted,

“Hosanna!

*Blessings on the one who comes
in the name of the Lord!*

Blessings on the king of Israel!”

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵ *Don’t be afraid, Daughter Zion.*

*Look! Your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey’s colt.*

¹⁶ His disciples didn’t understand these things at first. After he was glorified, they remembered that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

Zechariah 9:9-10 (CEB)

⁹ Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion.

Sing aloud, Daughter Jerusalem.

Look, your king will come to you.

He is righteous and victorious.

He is humble and riding on an ass,
on a colt, the offspring of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the warhorse from Jerusalem.

The bow used in battle will be cut off;

he will speak peace to the nations.

His rule will stretch from sea to sea,

and from the river

to the ends of the earth.