

"What Can This King Do For Me?"

Lent 6 – Palm Sunday

1)

Matthew 21:1-11

2)

April 5, 2020

May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. (2 Thess. 3:5)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Have you ever thought to yourself about those events on the first Palm Sunday and wondered – what, if any, impact it has on you and me today? After all, it was 2000 years and an ocean away. Wouldn't we be better off talking about the suffering of 1.2 million people and 65,000 deaths? What about the safer at home order, shuttering of businesses and the many ramifications that have come with it – falling stock market, fear about getting sick, anxiety and attack on mental health? Again, what impact does it have on us today when there are so many problems in our world?

Jesus rode into Jerusalem with an entry fit for a king. The crowds shouted – **"Hosanna to the Son of David!"** Do you know what Hosanna means? It means **"Please save me."** They were literally saying – "Please Save me – o promised one."

If there ever was a time that you and I all the people around the globe can look at the events of Palm Sunday and ask, **"What Can This King Do For Me?"** As we struggle with the events of daily life, we want to be able to ask – is he able to help me? Is he willing to help me? Does he care for me?

One of the really neat things about this account of Palm Sunday is Matthew's attention to detail. God didn't leave any of these details to chance. We're told that Jesus called ahead to make sure his ride was ready.

Don't you think that there is a reason those details are given to us?

Jesus is all knowing

- Picture the details and preparations for this ride into Jerusalem
- Fulfilling prophecy, as in Zechariah, that he would ride on a colt
- Jesus knows our every worry, care and concern and doesn't leave out any detail

- Jesus said in Luke 12:7 – **Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.**

Jesus is all powerful

- Picture Jesus grabbing the mane of the donkey
- It was the donkey's very first ride. From what I've been told before, like breaking in a horse, breaking in a donkey to ride it for the first time is difficult. Then you add to it that the crowd was there lining the street and make all kinds of noise.
- Jesus is all powerful
 - o Calmed the winds and waves with a few words – **"Quiet! Be Still!"**
 - o Raised Lazarus from the grave – calling him – **"Lazarus, come out!"**

Point 1 – This King is able to help me

If Jesus is able to help me, have you ever wondered, is Jesus willing to help me? With over 7 billion people in the world, perhaps you've questioned, why would the king of the universe know that I exist? Besides there are a lot more people in the world than just me – and some may be more popular or significant than me. Maybe you even feel that way from time to time when it comes to your own family.

Again, I want you to picture Jesus again riding on a donkey into Jerusalem. He could have ridden into Jerusalem as a king would – with all the pomp and circumstance – on a horse or in a chariot – and certainly with the cavalry. But, his choice of transportation was on a little donkey that had never been ridden. Humble Jesus is also approachable Jesus.

Matt 11:28 – ²⁸ **"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."**

Jesus on a donkey is a humble Jesus. Jesus on a donkey is the king who means it when he says – Matt 11:28 – ²⁸“**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**”

Jesus on a donkey is someone who is more concerned about you than about himself. He is not only able to help you; he is more than willing to do so.

Point 2 – This King is willing to help me

This king is able to help me. He is willing to help me. But, does he want to help me? Consider what he gave up – the joy and perfection of heaven to take on human flesh and be born in a stable.

Philippians 2 –

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

**⁶Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,**

**⁷but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.**

**⁸And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!**

Why is this relevant? Consider the events of that first Palm Sunday. Do you think Jesus knew what was about to happen to him as he rode into Jerusalem? He knew that he would be –

- Betrayed
- Mocked
- Spit on
- Stretched out on a cross with his hands and feet nailed down

This was like a parade with the mayor riding on the back of a car, or the queen who won the festival crown. Jesus rode into

Jerusalem with shouts of praise. He would leave by death on a cross. With the weight of the sins of the whole world on his shoulders, he would die to pay for them. Even though he knew that would happen, he still rode into Jerusalem because he cares for you and me – to lay down his life for us.

Jesus did it because he knew everything that you're going through right now. He knew about all the sickness and death of disease. He knew about all your right now cares and worries – paying the bills and providing for your family. Jesus carried out God's plan of salvation to save us.

Our third point – when we ask the question – “What Can This King Do For Me?”

Point 3 – This King **cares for my every need**

The Bible tells us – **Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.** (1 Pet 5:7)

Jesus shows you – he cares for your every need by what he did on that first Palm Sunday. He knew the price he was about to pay – his death brings us life. His resurrection brings us eternal life. Jesus took out disease, wiped clean our debt of sin, and forgave our every sin. The all-powerful, all-knowing, humble Savior – is your king.

Sometimes I wonder – what was life like before coronavirus – which even though it has only been a few weeks and months, seems like a lifetime ago. And sometimes I wonder – what will life be like after coronavirus, whenever our social gathering bans and safer at home bans are lifted. Friends, there is one thing I don't wonder about – what this king can do for me. Not only is he able to help me, but he's willing to help me. And he cares for me. Look at this king ride into Jerusalem to shouts of “**Hosanna**”

What does Jesus caring for you cause you to do? Look at our neighbors and help them in their needs. Call up or talk to them when they are out walking around – keeping a 6 ft distance – and ask for help if you need it – or offer to help if you are willing and able. And remember, the one who was able and willing to help you

– and who cares for every need. Picture Jesus – riding into Jerusalem – your Savior – the king! Then you will be following the Lord who rode in on the baby donkey and really did save us. Amen.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

**⁵ “Say to the Daughter of Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”**

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest!”

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.