



## **The Servant King**

(Mark 11:1-11)

**Bottom Line:** Though He was God, Jesus relinquished His rights and humbled Himself as a servant King. As the King does, His servants do likewise.

**Who do you think is the most well known person to ever come out of our community? What would it be like if that person showed up in the community one day?**

**How does Jesus compare in power, fame, and prestige to any celebrity or hero we could think of today?**

**Read Mark 11:1-7.**

**Do you think these unnamed disciples considered Jesus' instructions odd? Why or why not?**

**Do you think these disciples doubted anything that Jesus told them to expect?**

**What might the fact that the young donkey had not yet been ridden imply about how the young donkey would be used? (Read Zechariah 9:9 to help answer this question)**

Jesus' words and actions happened just as He described them, suggesting at a minimum that Jesus had prearranged His special transportation for Jerusalem, but more likely affirming His divine foreknowledge. In fact, this is the first time that Jesus describes Himself as "Lord" (v.3), indicating that Jesus is no longer trying to keep His identity as the Messiah a secret. That the young donkey had never been ridden implies a kind of purity about the animal—that it had been specially set apart for the task at hand. This again, is another piece of symbolism that points to Jesus' holiness as Lord.

**Read Mark 11:8-11.**

**Why do you think Jesus chose a donkey for His triumphal entry to Jerusalem? Does that seem appropriate for someone perceived as a king by His people?**

**Why do you think the people spread palm branches on the road?**

**What does the phrase "Hosanna" mean? What did it communicate about the crowd's expectations of Jesus?**

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey was the deliberate display of Israel's king coming with God's offer of peace. He was the Son of David chosen to sit on David's throne. He was the One of whom the prophet Zechariah had spoken (Zech. 9:9). Yet it was no small irony that the people, by using palm branches in their celebration, were heralding Jesus as a political king, not the humble shepherd-king He was portraying Himself as. The palm branch was a significant symbol of military victory for the Jews, which means the people displayed them



expecting Jesus to be their political or militaristic king. In chanting “Hosanna” (“save now”) along with other phrases from Psalm 118, the Jews were using a common patriotic or nationalistic cheer, another affirmation that the Jews looked to Jesus as their political savior.

**What were the people expecting Jesus to do when He reached Jerusalem (Luke 19:11 and Zech. 9:9)?**

**How were the people’s expectations of the Messiah different from Jesus’ true intentions?**

**When have your expectations about God been different from the way He has revealed Himself to you?**

By the very nature of Jesus’ entry—choosing to arrive on a humble donkey, rather than a powerful war horse—Jesus revealed the nature of His mission. He had come to save—not by usurping power and bringing with Him a military coup, but by surrendering power and embracing His own death. Jesus’ unmatched power triumphed through weakness, and ours will do the same when we take up our cross and follow Him. As we humble ourselves, repent and admit our need for a Savior, we embrace the humility needed to identify with Christ, share in His sufferings and follow Him with our very lives.

### **APPLICATION**

**If you had been a Jew living in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus, what would have made you reject and oppose Jesus?**

**What did the people indicate about their own view of and response to Jesus by laying down their coats and waving palms or branches along His path? What can we do in our own lives to “prepare the way for the Lord” (Is. 40:3)?**

**What expectations do we place on Christ today? Do we think of Him as a power that will serve our desires or do we see Him as the Lord who is worthy of our worship?**

**What can we do this week to publicly acknowledge Jesus as King—both individually and corporately at our church? How will this define the way we speak and act as followers of Jesus?**