

Palm Sunday – Matthew 21:1-11

This week we looked at Palm Sunday on Palm Sunday. This celebrates the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey to the whoops and cheers of the crowd. In this passage we see the event unfurl. It is a pretty grand entrance if He isn't an important person. So who is Jesus? And why does He come.

Jesus enters as a king. Like a Middle Eastern king would enter a city on a donkey out of peace, so does Jesus. Like an emperor, His entrance is an act of Parousia, where the city left the city to beckon in their king.

Q. How does Jesus being a king shape our view of him?

Consider how this unassuming man, entering the city in peace, is also the king of the universe.

1) Jesus the Prophesied King

But Jesus here is revealed as 3 types of king. First as a Prophesied King. Matthew quotes Zechariah 9:9 to indicate Jesus is the king Zechariah and the other prophets promised would come. In this passage a king is promised to defeat our greatest foes and problems. The Israelites thought their greatest problem was who ruled over them. Rather Jesus sees a greater problem in the sin we commit and the fallen-ness of the world. God hears the people's cry and so promises to send Jesus.

Q. How does knowing that God hears us and wants to help us, change how we approach him?

Do we think of God as far off? Do we think of him as distant and uninterested in us? Do we treat God like he cares and wants to know our problems?

2) Jesus the Present King

But the promises come true when Jesus comes in, riding the prophesied donkey. Jesus gives up the riches, comfort and ease of Heaven to come to Earth. Jesus comes in amongst the midst of all of our problems. Jesus is a Present King. He actually showed up, and died to deal with the punishment of our sin. He is with us and not distant and far off.

Q. How does Jesus being a present king change how we behave toward God?

If Jesus is a king who died for us out of love, do we treat him like that? Do we obey, praise and honour him accordingly?

3) Jesus the Promised King

After the events of Easter, Jesus ascends to Heaven. But we find a mirror of this story in Paul's writings (Read 1Thessalonians 4:13-17). In this account we find another act of Parousia. As Jesus returns to make all things new. Jesus is a Promised King who will return again. When He does, He will wipe every tear from every eye and end all suffering.

Q. How does Jesus returning give us hope?

God promised a saviour to right the wrong in the world, and then He showed up on Palm Sunday. God fulfilled His promise once, and He will again. God is faithful. He loves us and is faithful when we are faithless.

Q. Do we trust God to be faithful with our problems and in our lives? What can we trust God with?