

Here Comes the King

John 12:12-19

March 29, 2026



DAY 1: THE KING WE NEED, NOT THE KING WE EXPECT

READING: JOHN 12:12-19

The crowds expected a warrior king on a warhorse, but Jesus rode a donkey—a symbol of peace and humility. How often do we approach God with our own agenda, wanting Him to fix our problems our way? The people wanted political deliverance; Jesus came to deliver them from something far greater: sin and death itself.

Today, consider where you might be trying to force Jesus into your expectations. Are you seeking a God who serves your comfort, or are you willing to surrender to the King who knows what you truly need? True freedom doesn't come from getting what we want, but from trusting the One who gave everything for us. Let go of your script and embrace His story.

DAY 2: MISPLACED HOPE AND TRUE DELIVERANCE

READING: ISAIAH 53:1-6

"Hosanna! Save us now!" the crowds cried, waving palm branches as symbols of victory. They longed for rescue from Roman oppression, but Jesus came to rescue them from a deeper tyranny—the bondage of sin and the power of death.

We all carry our own "save us now" prayers. Perhaps you're desperate for financial relief, healing, restored relationships, or relief from anxiety. These desires aren't wrong, but like the Palm Sunday crowd, we can miss the greater salvation Jesus offers. He didn't come merely to make our temporary circumstances comfortable; He came to reconcile us eternally to God.

What are you asking Jesus to save you from today? Can you trust that His salvation—though different from your expectations—is exactly what your soul needs most?

DAY 3: THE DONKEY BENEATH THE KING

READING: ZECHARIAH 9:9-10; PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Every detail of Palm Sunday was intentional—not spontaneous hype, but prophetic fulfillment. The donkey wasn't a rejection of royalty; it was a redefinition of it. Jesus embodied a kingdom where power looks like humility, where victory comes through sacrifice, and where the King serves rather than demands service.

The crowd missed the donkey's significance because they were blinded by what they wanted to see. How easily we do the same! We can attend church, celebrate Easter, and still miss Jesus entirely—distracted by holiday busyness, unanswered questions, or comfort-seeking faith.

Don't miss the donkey-riding Jesus. He is the King who doesn't conquer by force but wins hearts through love. His way of humility brings true peace. Will you embrace this upside-down kingdom today?

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DAY 4: WHEN THE KING GOES TO THE CROSS

READING: ISAIAH 52:13-15; 53:7-12

From His birth to His three years of public ministry, everything in Jesus' life pointed toward one week—the week that began with palm branches and ended with a cross. No other religious leader predicted their death and resurrection and actually pulled it off. Only Jesus.

This wasn't Plan B. Jesus rode into Jerusalem with the cross in mind. He allowed the crowd to proclaim Him King because He knew the path to His throne led through suffering, rejection, and death. What looked like defeat was actually the greatest victory in human history.

When you face suffering, remember this: Jesus didn't avoid the hard road; He walked it willingly for you. Your pain has purpose because His did. Death no longer has the final word because Jesus defeated it. Hold onto this truth when life doesn't make sense.

DAY 5: SURRENDER YOUR EXPECTATIONS

READING: ROMANS 5:6-11; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

Palm Sunday reveals a profound truth: Jesus will give us what we need, not necessarily what we want. The crowd wanted political revolution; Jesus brought spiritual resurrection. They wanted Rome overthrown; Jesus overthrew death itself.

Perhaps you've been adding Jesus to your life like an accessory—hoping He'll work out, ready to discard Him if He doesn't deliver on your terms. But faith isn't about making Jesus fit your expectations; it's about surrendering your expectations to embrace the King who saves.

If you're exploring faith, your next step isn't having it all figured out—it's taking one step toward the real Jesus. A simple prayer can change everything: "Jesus, today I trust You. By faith, I enter into relationship with You."

Don't let another Easter pass as just a holiday. The donkey-riding King is calling you to true peace, true freedom, and true life.