

The Coming King
Luke 19:28-40, Psalm 118
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Discussion Questions

1. How do you think people reacted to Jesus' story about the talents and servants? Do you think there were different reactions? Why?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose a donkey that hadn't been ridden? Was it a demonstration of power or peace or...?
3. Jesus was delivered but also endured much suffering. What do we learn about life from that?
4. Does the idea of "God's covenant zeal of goodwill" help you understand God is the same in the New and Old Testament?

Teaching Notes

Palm Sunday marks the first day of Passion Week.
It is the week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday

Jesus' time has finally come.

Throughout his life Jesus said things related to time.

"My time has not yet come."

From...His first miracle in John 2 to 7, 8, 13, and 17.

This was not a random phrase Jesus used to avoid things...

...This was a statement that pointed to purpose.

When He says "my time has not yet come" the inference is...

...there is a time that will come.

So for Jesus the time is now.

And on Palm Sunday He is going to ride in as a king.

Title: The Coming King

Every gospel writer includes this moment in Jesus' life.

It was predicted in Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice, O people of Zion!

Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!

Look, your king is coming to you.

He is righteous and victorious,
yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey's colt.

Palm branches were to celebrate victory.

A couple of things to set the stage...

This is the time of Passover.

- Jerusalem is packed with people.
- It is like the mall at Christmas or the beach on 4th of July.
- The Passover vibe is always exciting with great anticipation.

But even more so because there is a new rabbi in town.

This rabbi has performed some pretty amazing signs.

One of which has brought a crowd even now...

...John tells us, Lazarus was just raised from the dead.

...And the people who saw that are here.

It is one thing to heal someone, but to call them from the grave?!

That is pretty amazing!

Jesus demonstrated He had power over death.

He also just told them a story.

Luke 19:11 tells us

“The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away.”

A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return to His servants.

This soon to be king gives servants money to invest, talents.

...It is a responsibility and an opportunity.

Two of the servants invest and get a return for the king.

They are rewarded.

One of the servants doesn't trust the king...

...He doesn't think he is a good king, and buries it.

The story ends with the execution of the new king's enemies.

Jesus wants the people to know, the kingdom is not now.

...And...it is not what they think it will be.

Three guys all are given talents...opportunities to invest.

...Those who invested were rewarded...

The other didn't trust the king and even what he had was taken.

The truth is...

The Jews didn't want or trust Jesus.

They were looking for a king to establish THEIR kingdom.

...They wanted it their way...and so do we today.

Burger King in 1974 adopted "have it your way"

But in 2022, they changed it to "You rule!"

1. Jesus is a better king not a burger king.

We often want Jesus to be a king that we rule over.

Jesus is a king that rules over us.

Jesus' kingdom is **spiritual & eternal**, it is not just physical today.

Jesus' is a king who **conquers hearts not countries.**

Jesus' is a king that fights **sin and death** not Rome or Jews.

So everyone is coming to Passover...

- there is a man that was brought back from the dead
- and a story of a king who will return and bring both rewards and judgment.
- **And the time has come...**

We pick it up in Luke 19 NLT...

Luke 19:28 After telling this story, Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking ahead of his disciples. **29** As he came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead. **30** "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.

The donkey is symbolic of peace and humility.

Jesus didn't come on a horse in pride for war, but...

...on a donkey humbly in peace.

BUT a donkey that no one has ridden...

It is not usually humble or peaceful to ride an unriden animal...

...it is foolish and unpredictable.

2. Jesus is a king that brings peace

He brings peace that passes understanding.

How can He give peace when everything around me is chaos?

How can He give peace when nothing makes sense?

When everything is **unpredictable** and everyone is **freaking** out?

He is the king of peace, and His presence brings peace.

It is the presence of Jesus that brings peace to our hearts.

31 If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying that colt?' just say, 'The Lord needs it.'
...If anyone asks, say, "the Lord needs it."

When we follow the Lord, it is not our needs we focus on.

When I am following or serving the Lord, it is...
...His needs I seek and it is with His authority I ask.

3. Jesus is a king that directs with authority.

They are not getting the donkey because it is their idea.
They are getting the donkey for the Lord based on...
...His direction and His authority.

The best position we can put ourselves in is to live...
...under the authority of the true King.
To truly serve the king, we just trust His word and obey Him.

And it starts with the simple things...
...go to the city, get a donkey, tell them the Lord needs it.

32 So they went and found the colt, just as Jesus had said. 33 And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, "Why are you untying that colt?"

34 And the disciples simply replied, "The Lord needs it." 35 So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on.

I love that it happened just like Jesus said it would.

Notice: there was a challenge just like He said there would be
...But they responded just like He said they should...
...And it worked just like He said it would.

If you do what He says, things turn out how He says.

Jesus said, you will have tribulation.
There will be pain, betrayals, and troubles...will you still follow?

Will you give up or step up in the face of fear or resistance?

They could think, "Oh, he's not going to let us have his donkey!"
..."Let's just quit and walk away!"

Even in the smallest moments like this...
...step out and see if what He says is true.

Jesus has a mission...

...so in submission, we submit to His mission...
...and follow His directions because of His authority.

The guy gives them the donkey like it's nothing, just as He said!

36 As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. **37** When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

38 "Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!"

39 But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!"

40 He replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!"

This is a normal song they would sing.

Part of the Hallel songs of ascent. Psalm 113-118

But today they are singing to Jesus.

Psalm 118

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!
His faithful love endures forever.

2 Let all Israel repeat:
"His faithful love endures forever."

3 Let Aaron's descendants, the priests, repeat:
"His faithful love endures forever."

4 Let all who fear the Lord repeat:
"His faithful love endures forever."

Hebrew poetry is all about repetition.

The big idea is "give thanks to the Lord for He is good."
His faithful love endures forever.

"Faithful love" is also translated mercy.
It is "hesed" a zealous covenant, kindness of goodwill.

4. Jesus is a king with a zealous goodwill for you.

It is for the descendent of Israel, the Jews.

It is for the descendants of Aaron, the priests.

It is for all those who fear the Lord, you and me.

We all can give thanks to the Lord for His faithful love/zeal of goodwill for us.

This is why they came to Jerusalem.

This is why they sing this song...
...They have come to give thanks to God...

5 In my distress I prayed to the Lord,
and the Lord answered me and set me free.
The psalmist was in distress...and the Lord answered.

The psalmist says that IN his distress...
...he prayed and God answered and God set him free.

We think, to answer me in my distress and deliver me means no more distressing situation.

But God's deliverance isn't always **from** the situation...
... it **is** in the situation.

6 The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear.
What can mere people do to me?
7 Yes, the Lord is for me; he will help me.
I will look in triumph at those who hate me.

Romans 8:31 —If God is for us, who can be against us?

13 My enemies did their best to kill me,
but the Lord rescued me.
17 I will not die; instead, I will live
to tell what the Lord has done.
18 The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not let me die.
19 Open for me the gates where the righteous enter,
and I will go in and thank the Lord.
20 These gates lead to the presence of the Lord,
and the godly enter there.

22 The stone that the builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing,
and it is wonderful to see.

24 This is the day the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day.
This was the specific and predicted day that Jesus would come into Jerusalem.

- He was punished.
- He would die, but he would live.
- He would live to tell the Good News of the gospel.

- He would open the gates of righteousness for us to enter.

Jesus is the stone the builders rejected.

...But...He is the one that God has chosen...

... to build everything upon.

25 Please, Lord, please save us.

Please, Lord, please give us success.

26 Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

His faithful love endures forever.

5. Jesus is a king who saves.

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

God save us, you have a zealous covenant goodwill to us.

If you can bless the One who comes...

...you can also give Him thanks for His faithful enduring love.

Sadly this call to give thanks was met with hard hearts and distracted minds by some.

They did not receive Him and instead crucified the Lord of glory.

...But even that was part of the plan...

And now because of their rejection...

...we all can receive forgiveness and life in His name.

Both the psalmist and Jesus have similar experiences of victory by going through not around difficulty. What is the lesson here about life?

He came to take them from betrayed to beloved.

We have been betrayed by our own selves.

We have betrayed God Himself.

Though He made us, we don't serve Him.

Though He gave us life, we don't use our lives for Him.

He didn't come to conquer Rome...

...He came to conquer death.

Jesus did not just avoid death...He conquered it.

Jesus didn't just keep living.

He absorbed death, He took it all in, and then overcame it.

He took the hardest blow of torture and pain and abuse...

He drank the full cup of the wrath of God

...Then He gave up His Spirit and then He came back to life.

Jesus drives the darkness away with light.

He brings life out of death.

He came to set captives free and give life to the hopeless.

He came to save people from their sin...

...and the consequence of their sin which is death.