

# Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

March 29, 2026 – Hosanna: The King We Want vs. The King We Need

**Main Passage:** John 12:12-19

## Main Idea:

We often chase the kind of king we want—one who fixes our circumstances—but God has given us the King we need—one who saves our souls.

### I. The Crowd Desired a Political King (John 12:12–13)

- Jerusalem was filled with Passover pilgrims—many were **spectators, not disciples**
- The crowd responded to:
  - Reports of miracles
  - The raising of Lazarus
  - Growing excitement and momentum
- Their cry: “**Hosanna**” = “**Save us now**”
- Their expectation:
  - Freedom from Roman oppression
  - Restoration of national power
  - A conquering, political Messiah
- Their actions:
  - Palm branches → symbol of victory and nationalism
  - Cloaks laid down → recognition of royalty

*Treated Jesus like a returning war hero—but misunderstood His mission.*

### II. Jesus Revealed a Peaceful King (John 12:14–16; Zechariah 9:9)

- Jesus deliberately rides a **donkey**, not a warhorse
- Fulfillment of prophecy:
  - A King who is **humble, righteous, and peaceful**
- Key contrast:
  - **Warhorse** = conquest and power
  - **Donkey** = peace and humility
- The disciples:
  - Did not understand at first
  - Only understood after the resurrection

*They expected military victory—Jesus came bringing spiritual redemption.*

### III. The Crowd Was Motivated by Signs, Not Surrender (John 12:17–19)

- The crowd followed because of:
  - Miracles - Signs and wonders

- Personal benefit
- Even the Pharisees recognized:
  - “The world has gone after Him.”
- The problem:
  - They wanted what Jesus could do
  - Not who Jesus is

*A faith built on benefits will collapse when expectations aren't met.*

#### **IV. Jesus Came to Die, Not Dominate (John 12:20–24, 27–30)**

- Greeks seeking Jesus → **global scope of salvation**
- Jesus shifts focus to the cross:
  - “A grain of wheat must die.”
- The Father confirms the mission from heaven
- The crowd is confused:
  - Why is the King talking about death?

*The crown comes through the cross—not conquest.*

#### **V. The Tragic Turn: From “Hosanna” to “Crucify Him”**

- Same crowd:
  - **Sunday:** “Save us now!”
  - **Friday:** “Crucify Him!”
- Why the shift?
  - Jesus didn't meet their expectations
- Truth:
  - They didn't reject Him because He failed... They rejected Him because He refused to be what they wanted

*When Jesus doesn't fit our agenda, we are tempted to walk away.*

#### **VI. Application**

##### **We Still Do the Same Thing Today**

- We want:
  - Comfort over calling
  - Prosperity over holiness
  - Political solutions over spiritual transformation
  - A better life instead of a new life
- We often treat Jesus as:
  - A problem-solver
  - A life coach
  - A means to an easier life

*But Jesus didn't come to improve your life—He came to redeem it.*

**The question is not whether Jesus is King—  
The question is whether He is your King.**