

Small Group Questions: The King We Need

Bible Study: Mark 11:1–11

Instructions: *Before starting, have someone read Mark 11:1–11 aloud. If you have time, you may also want to read the "King's Requirements" from Deuteronomy 17:14–20 mentioned in the sermon.*

1. The sermon mentions that Americans often have a "deeply rooted instinct" to reject kings. In your own life, in what areas do you find it hardest to let someone else have the "final say"? (e.g., your finances, your schedule, your moral choices, your private thoughts).
2. We often say we want "no king," but the sermon argues we just crown "lesser kings" (like the independent self, a career, or a political stance). What are some "lesser kings" that people in our culture—or even in the church—tend to settle for today?
3. The Mount of Olives was a place of David's retreat, Solomon's idolatry, and Ezekiel's vision of God's glory departing. Why is it significant that Jesus begins His entry into Jerusalem from *this* specific location? What does it say about Him stepping into our "longings and failures"?
4. Read **Deuteronomy 17:16–20**. God's model for a king was someone who didn't accumulate horses (military power), wives (political alliances), or gold (wealth). How does Jesus' entry on a borrowed donkey (Mark 11:7) fulfill this "humble king" requirement better than any other ruler in history?

5. The crowd shouted "Hosanna!" (Save us!). However, the sermon suggests it's possible to praise Jesus only as long as He supports our personal agenda. Have you ever felt disappointed with God because He didn't act like the "King" you wanted Him to be in a specific situation?

6. The sermon notes: *"He has not come merely to confront Rome; He has come to confront sin."* Why is it easier for us to want a King who fixes our *circumstances* rather than a King who confronts our *sin*?

7. Look at the comparison in the sermon: A worldly king may give confidence or protection, but he cannot "cleanse your conscience" or "conquer death." Which of the "benefits" of Jesus' kingship mentioned in the sermon do you find yourself needing most right now?

8. Jesus enters Jerusalem to go to the Cross. How does the fact that our King is a "Sacrificial King" change the way we view our own "rights" and "power" in our relationships or at work?

9. We installed Pastor Kevin and New Ruling Elder this past Sunday. How does the truth that "the church does not create its own kings" protect both the leaders and the congregation?

