

PALM SUNDAY

Behold our KING

*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.
10 I will remove the battle chariots from
Zec 9:9–10.*

Digging Deeper

The Humility of the King

In ancient culture during the earthly ministry of Christ when a king rode a donkey it was a symbol of peace and humility. If a king rode his war horse it was a symbol of hostility or the intent to conquer. Jesus is seen entering Jerusalem in Matthew 21 riding a donkey. Mt 21:9 *“And the people shouted out **“Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God in highest heaven!”*** Here we see the people that recognized Christ as the king of the world, but we also see people that totally missed it. Luke 19:39 *“**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!”**”*

The Pharisees and religious elite here are not looking for the humble king, they are looking for the warrior king. They want a king that would free them from Roman oppression and restore the theocracy or monarchy of Israel on the throne of David. They were so fixated on their immediate earthly needs that they missed the fact that they had a deep spiritual need.

Jesus told them ‘Even the rocks will cry out in praise.’ The entire earth is waiting to be free from the curse of sin and to be united again with the creator and sustainer of life. All of the old testament points to this moment! (Notably Genesis 49:10–12) And still, people miss it, largely because they are consumed with finding a savior that fits their own idea rather than surrendering to God’s perfect plan.

Discussion Questions

1. Despite all the prophecies, Jesus showed up on the scene in a surprising way, radically smashing the presuppositions of mankind. In what ways has Christ surprised you when He showed up in your life?
2. In what ways do we hyperfocus on the small life problems that we believe we need a savior for, rather than looking at the “BIG” problem of sin?
3. Hyperfocusing on the small problem, or immediate need, can cause us to miss the true magnitude of Christ. In some ways this causes us to treat God like a genie in a lamp, rather than worshipping him as the Sovereign Master of the Universe. How can we avoid these pit falls?