



KING

King– John 12:12-19

April 2, 2023

As Christians around the world celebrate Palm Sunday, Lewis Roderick takes us to John 12: 12-19 where we see Jesus announced as King and entering into conflict.

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- Before listening to this message, what were your previous ideas about Palm Sunday?
- Lewis quoted Mark Sayers' book *Disappearing Church*. Elsewhere in the book, Sayers lists seven widely held beliefs in post-Christian Society:
 1. The highest good is individual freedom, happiness, self-definition, and self-expression.
 2. Traditions, religions, received wisdom, regulations, and social ties that restrict individual freedom, happiness, self-definition, and self-expression must be reshaped, deconstructed, or destroyed.
 3. The world will inevitably improve as the scope of individual freedom grows. Technology—in particular the internet—will motor this progression toward utopia.
 4. The primary social ethic is tolerance of everyone's self-defined quest for individual freedom and self-expression. Any deviation from this ethic of tolerance is dangerous and must not be tolerated. Therefore, social justice is less about economic or class inequality, and more about issues of equality relating to individual identity, self-expression, and personal autonomy.
 5. Humans are inherently good.
 6. Large-scale structures and institutions are suspicious at best and evil at worst.
 7. Forms of external authority are rejected, and personal authenticity is lauded.

Which of these are you most familiar with? How do they interface with the idea that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of Lords?

- Is Jesus King of your life? How might your engagement with his word tell you the answer?