

Family Worship | 24 March 2024 | Palm Sunday | The True King

Main Point: Jesus is our True King

Intro:

This time next week, society will recognize the most important event in all of history. Something that, as Christians, we celebrate weekly, and even daily. On a quiet Sunday morning, 2 millennia ago, in a cold tomb near the city of Jerusalem, the heart of a dead man began to beat. His systems started to fire up. He drew air into his lungs. Life flooded back into the Lord Jesus. He began to move, in a newly-restored, eternal resurrection body. The heavy stone to his tomb was rolled away and he walked out into the world that he had created and had overcome. He is risen, He is risen indeed, never to die again, ready to rule and reign over all creation forever. The ONE TRUE KING.

The Friday before, what we call “Good Friday,” was the darkest day in history, in competition with the day Adam and Eve committed the first sin that gave the need for the cross, the death of the God-man, Jesus, was surely the darkest. Jesus, having endured a sleepless night of trials, was beaten within an inch of his life, made to carry a heavy cross to the place where it would be used, then nailed to that cross and left to die while Roman soldiers gambled for his clothes. He agonized for 6 hours and around 3pm, with a cry of “it is finished” he hung his lifeless head. Jesus was dead. The family and disciples that had followed him for 3 years were sad, confused and full of questions about what was next.

This brutal day on which our debt was paid in full, stood in stark contrast to the welcome that Jesus received just a few days earlier as he entered the Holy City of Jerusalem. As he rode into the city people tore apart trees to line the path with branches, palm fronds, and their own clothing. He entered with shouts of “Hosanna!”, a plea for salvation. The crowd was begging for this hero, this King, to come in and save them, which is exactly what he came to do. But he didn’t come galloping in on a warhorse armed with a sword, surrounded by armies, he came riding peacefully on the colt of a donkey, armed with his righteousness, surrounded by disciples. [The True King had](#) arrived in Jerusalem to save his people.

Today is Palm Sunday. Each one of the gospel writers gives an account of this victorious march into the city, and today we’ll spend most of our time in Luke’s account, found in Luke chapter 19.

This is a well known Bible story. One that most of us probably remember from Sunday school or children's church as kids. These familiar stories often seem far removed from us, but I urge you not to tune it out. This passage holds a lot of wisdom and hope for us right here, right now. Hopefully you've made your way to Luke 19. So we will jump in at verse 28.

Luke 19:28 And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

- Jesus had just finished speaking to a crowd of people in Jericho and was headed out to Jerusalem
- He had been to Jerusalem many times, but this would be his last time.

Luke 19 29-31 | **29** When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, **30** saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. **31** If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'"

- Olivet - Mount of Olives
- Colt - we know, from the other gospel accounts, that this colt was a young male donkey that his disciples were sent to retrieve.
 - It seems like an **odd request**. No gospel account makes it clear that he told them WHY they were asked to go grab the colt, only that he gave them very specific instructions on WHERE to find it, WHAT to do when they did.
 - [When the True King tells us to move, we move.](#)
 - **Personal Testimony:** Coming out of last year, and moving into this year, my wife, Alyssa, and I were being faced with lots of BIG life questions. As we talked, listened and prayed, we felt the Lord telling us that this year would be a year where we focus on the act of OBEDIENCE. We all know, obedience is not always easy, especially when the way you would do things doesn't line up with the way the Lord seems to be leading. As many of you know, because it was announced a few weeks ago, later this year Greenbriar is starting our first official church planting residency, designed to train up pastors to go out and start gospel-centered, disciple-making churches in other communities. Through ways that only He could have orchestrated and led in, the Lord showed Alyssa and me that I was supposed to step in as that first resident. Now, this hurts! This was hard! I love youth ministry and over the last eight years, I have invested blood, sweat, tears, and more into the volunteers I get to lead and amazing

students that have been a part of it. This is not really the route I would have chosen, not now at least, yet when the True King says move we move.

- When our circumstances seem to not make sense, they always make sense to Jesus. He always has a plan and he never fails us. All of our best actions are the ones done in obedience to Him. He has called all of His people to serve Him and obey Him - is there something the Lord has been asking of you to obey him in? Maybe today, He's gently reminding you to trust and obey him.
- **"The Lord has need of it"** - This is an interesting phrase. We know that the Lord Almighty doesn't need anything from us, yet, we see in this short phrase, evidence of Jesus emptying Himself to become like us and even taking on the reality of need. He needed food and water, He needed clothing, he needed air to breathe, and here, he needed a donkey. The all-powerful King of the Universe, shows us what kind of king He is by taking on human limitations. He is a good King who knows our struggles. He has lived among His people. He gets you. He's not out of touch.

Luke 19:32-34 | **"32** So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. **33** And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" **34** And they said, "The Lord has need of it."

- The odd request resolves as Jesus planned and the disciples **get to be a part of what he is doing.**
- When we are led by the True King, things work out the way He intends, which is always best, *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."* Romans 8:28

Luke 19:35 And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

- Why is this colt such a big deal? Why couldn't Jesus just have walked in? Why didn't he choose to ride in on a stallion, or a chariot, or something else?
 - **Jesus is serious about His own Word!**
 - **Zechariah 9:9** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
 - Over 500 years before this day, Zechariah had prophesied that the coming king, the True King, would enter Jerusalem

in this exact way. **Jesus was intentional to fulfill this prophecy.**

- Hundreds of prophecies are fulfilled during the earthly ministry of Jesus and it is due to Christ being faithful to His holy Word. He has set that example for us. If we are followers of the True King, we must be devoted to His Word.
 - *“Scripture was the way of the Head; it should also be the way of the members. If the King himself is careful in his walk towards the Word, surely we ought to be.”* - Spurgeon
 - This means:
 - **Our beliefs are formed from the Bible.**
 - Throughout the centuries and probably most prominently today, people often claim to follow Jesus, but form a Jesus of their liking, that doesn't look much, if at all, like the Jesus of the Bible. He affirms the things that they affirm, and dislikes the thing that they dislike.
 - 1. There's the Jesus that mingles in well with your buffet of belief systems because he is just one of the ways to find salvation in this world, but you like some of the things he said - but this view seems to look right past Jesus saying “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
 - 2. There's the Jesus that loves you for you and would never take issue with who you choose to love, how you choose to love them, and what you identify as along the way - but this view seems to look right past Jesus saying “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
 - 3. There's the Jesus who died for your sins, for you to be able to pray a prayer, walk an aisle, get baptized and then walk through life on your own terms

because you took care of the afterlife stuff, it cost him a lot but cost you very little - but this view seems to look right past stories like the rich young ruler where Jesus tells a man to walk away from his old life and walk after Him.

- **We trust that His ways are better than ours.**
 - **John 14:15** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. I give my kids direction, not so that they can make me happy, but because I love them and want what’s best for them. Jesus gives us commands because He loves us and knows what’s best for us. Following those commandments are the fruit of loving him. Do you desire to follow Jesus’ commandments? Do you know His commands?
 - This is a huge reason **to read and study The Bible**: to know Him and His commandments. Do you have a plan for reading the Bible? You have lots of resources for this at your fingertips in our modern age:
 - The Youversion Bible app has tons of plans to go through that you can go through with friends for accountability.
 - The Bible Recap is a one year chronological Bible study that many of you have been impacted by
 - You could talk with your community group about going through a plan together.
- **His entering on a donkey signified the kind of King He was and would continue to be.** He is, by his own description, gentle and lowly. He wasn’t looking to impress, because nothing is more impressive than him just as he is, and with Christ as our ultimate example, we, as his people, are to carry ourselves similarly.
 - **Illustration:** If you have ever seen the movie Aladdin, you know that the sultan is actively trying to marry off his daughter, and when kings and princes would come to Agrabah to try for Jasmine’s hand,

they would always come into the city with great fanfare, riding on all kinds of animals with a parade surrounding them. This was an attempt to impress, and to show a little bit about the type of King you would be. Jesus enters with great fanfare, but in a much more humble fashion. He didn't need to make himself look like anything. He is the MOST powerful King there ever was, and carries himself in perfect humility.

- **This example is weaved throughout his teaching.** When he taught his disciples how to pray, he made sure to teach them that they were not to pray to be seen by others. He taught the same about our good works and generosity. We aren't to live for the praises of men, but for the glory of God.

Luke 19 36-38 | 36 And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. **37** As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, **38** saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

- Jesus had given sight to the blind, healed the lame and the leper, opened ears that couldn't hear, and mouths that couldn't speak. He had given freedom to those oppressed by demons. He preached amazing things about the Kingdom of God. Yet, he so often told those he healed not to spread the news, he often healed in secret where just a few could see, he often spoke in parables so that only those who had ears to hear, would understand. Jesus had spent the last 3 years showing what His kingdom would look like, but not encouraging the crowds to worship and celebrate him as a king, but today was different. On this day, as he rode, as a King, toward the greatest battle that had ever been fought or will ever be fought, for the freedom of his people, he allowed, and even facilitated the praises of the people. I can only imagine, after all that these crowds had seen and heard over the past few years, how they were bubbling over with anticipation to shout for joy as he entered the gates of Jerusalem.
- “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” In other gospel accounts they shouted “Hosanna!” Save us! They laid down palm branches and even sacrificed their own clothes to pave the way for the long awaited Messiah King Jesus. The one they had heard about their whole lives and for generations before them. The one that the prophets of old had spoken of, was here, in the flesh, in front of them. How could they not praise him?!

- Jesus had fought battles as he encountered pushback from the pharisees, as he pushed back the enemy in performing miracles, as he preached truth against the lies of the enemy, he even gave his disciples the ability to do these things, but the battle he was riding toward now was the greatest. This was the final conquering battle where Jesus would do something only he could do. He, who had overcome temptation his whole life, a perfect, and innocent man, God in flesh, was going to be betrayed with a kiss from his friend, be beaten, mocked, and killed. He never fought back. He let it happen. For the joy that was set before Him, he endured the cross. Our only hope of salvation is that he stayed on that cross, and he did, but he did not stay dead. He is King, right now, ruling and reigning over all of creation.

Luke 19:39-40 | 39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” **40** He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

- **When the True King is working, so are His enemies.**
 - The Pharisees were waiting on Messiah to come just like the crowd but they couldn't see the forest for the trees. Their hearts and minds were so consumed with the idol of power that came with wielding religion like a weapon, that they couldn't recognize the focus of their religion riding on a donkey right in front of them.
 - **The enemy entices us with false kings.** When we take our eyes off of Jesus, or maybe you've never put your eyes on Jesus, the worship that rightfully belongs to him is directed elsewhere. Vs 40 evidences creation's design to worship, as Jesus tells the Pharisees that if he were to quiet his followers, even the rocks would cry out His praises
 - **Do you know where in your life the enemy tempts you to worship false kings?** Here are a few examples, but it is unique to everyone
 - **Political Affiliations** - 2024 is an election year and things are just getting amped up and will be on full display the closer that we get to November. We can and will be tempted to find our security in whoever is in the White House. As believers we must remember that we have been given citizenship in another Kingdom, Christ's Kingdom. Our allegiance is with him. This is our second home, not our forever home. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't care about politics, but it means that our hope is not in them. We should have a firm grasp on the gospel and the ways of God, and let those guide

how we interact with politics, but if we spend a large portion of our time worried about the state of our nation because of who is in office, then we are trusting in False Kings. As things get rougher for Christians, we shouldn't ramp up our trust and worship of government, we should trust all the more in Christ.

- **Romans 8:35-39 | 35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? **36** As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **Feelings** - Feelings are real but they are not ultimate. Our culture tells us that our feelings are our true guide for our lives. We shouldn't allow anyone to let us feel a way that we don't want to feel, and if someone disagrees with our feelings or opinions, it is absolutely ok to cancel that person. However, God's Word is clear that we can't trust our feelings, because we have hearts that desire the things that are worst for us. We can trust Christ. Even when we walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, we don't have to fear because of our feelings, because he is with us.
- **Misplaced Desires** for success, comfort, hope, joy, and salvation. - Jesus defines success, not on monetary or influential gain, but as obedience to him. When we seek comfort in created things, we are always left wanting and frustrated. The same with comfort and joy. But Christ offers joy and comfort unending in Himself. He has conquered our sin and death and offers new life, which redefines how we see comfort, joy, purpose, identity, and so on. When our desires change from finding salvation in creation to finding salvation in Christ, it completely changes how we view the world.
- **Human Relationships** - People were not designed to be the object of your worship. You may be believing the lie that you will find your

greatest fulfillment and belonging in the right friend group, or in the right dating relationship, or in the right marriage, or in your kids but these are false Kings. They are great things, and we need relationships, but when we direct our worship at people who were not designed to be the object of our worship, it will crush them and leave us hopeless. When our relationship with Christ is ultimate, all of our other relationships are set up to be healthier.

- We find that there is always an end to the salvation that false Kings bring. We are always left wanting. Nothing created can ever do the work that Jesus has done for us on the cross. The cross tells us that our insurmountable debt is paid, and the empty tomb tells us that Jesus is who he says he is, alive and well, ruling and reigning, and we can trust Him as our True King. Do you trust Him as your True King?

Community Group Discussion Questions:

1. Is there something that God has been asking you to obey Him in? What is it?
2. What example did Jesus set for us as the True King? How do we live in light of His kingship?
3. What are some of the false Kings you are tempted to bow down to? How is Jesus the better King (how does He succeed where false kings fall short)?