

(Pre) Eater: JESUS THE KING

Wesley Sabio - March 24, 2024 - John 12:12-16

John 12:12-16 NIV

12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.

13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”

14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

15 Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”

16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

Palm Sunday is the day where Christians around the world remember and celebrate Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and His bold presentation of Himself as Israel’s Messiah-King. This event is recorded in all 4 Gospels:

JESUS’ TRIUMPHAL ENTRY IN THE BIBLE:

- **Matthew 21:1-11**
- **Mark 11:1-11**
- **Luke 19:28-44**
- **John 12:12-19**

Palm Sunday is also called Jesus’ Triumphal Entry. Palm Sunday is the kick-off for Holy Week which is the week leading up to Jesus’ crucifixion, death, and resurrection. Palm Sunday essentially marks the beginning of the end of Jesus’ earthly ministry and for me personally, it reminds us of why Jesus came to this earth in the first place - to seek and save the lost.

PALM SUNDAY REMINDS US THAT:

- Jesus didn’t just come to be a great teacher (although He is one).
- Jesus didn’t just come to be a great healer (although He is one).
- Jesus didn’t just come to be a great example (although He is one).

- Beyond great teaching, great healing, and a great example, **Jesus came to be the great sacrifice for sin!**

“Christianity is the only major religion to have as its central event the humiliation of it’s God.” // Church History in Plain Language by Bruce Shelley

John 12:12 provides context:

- Jesus’ ministry was mostly in out-of-the-way areas.
- When He performed miracles, He would often tell people to keep it on the down low because His “hour” had not yet come.
- Regardless, word continued to spread about Jesus and what He was doing
- Common people flocked to Jesus while the religious leaders tried to stop Jesus.
- Palm Sunday is a public declaration of Jesus to be Israel’s Messiah-King.
- Passover is a 7-day celebration commemorating God’s rescue of His people from Egyptian slavery.
- Many Jews were anticipating the Messiah and actively looking for Him to show up and rescue Israel from Roman oppression.
- Jesus indeed is the Messiah, but He didn’t come to set-up Israel’s kingdom, but to establish the Kingdom of Heaven.

3 THINGS THAT PALM SUNDAY TEACHES US ABOUT KING JESUS:

1. Jesus is the eternal King who is worshiped (verse 13).

- In verse 13 we see crowds of people with palm branches, which by this time, had come to symbolize victory and triumph. In the other Gospel accounts, we see people taking off their cloaks and laying them down on the road, along with palm branches - this would be similar to rolling out a red carpet today.
- The words they’re shouting are direct quotes from Psalm 118 which they believed was being fulfilled by Jesus as he was approaching Jerusalem. They’re saying: “Hosanna! The word “hosanna” means “save now” and it morphed from a prayer to becoming a word of praise! “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!”
- Contrary to what the crowds thought was happening, Jesus didn’t come to overthrow Rome.

- Jesus came to overthrow sin, death, and Satan! Jesus wasn't primarily focused on setting up the kingdom of Israel, but rather, He was focused on ushering in the Kingdom of God.
- "Jesus isn't the means to something wonderful. He is that something wonderful."
- Revelation 4 and 5 show Jesus sitting on the throne of Heaven and receiving worship and praise.

2. Jesus is the humble King who draws near (verse 14).

- It would be easy for Jesus just to sit in power, but now we see the one who is high and lifted up, stooping low and drawing close.
- Unlike the Roman Emperors of the day who after defeating an enemy, would return to Rome on the back of a warhorse, King Jesus arrives to His holy city on the back of a donkey's colt.
- This was an amazing demonstration of humility.
- Jesus isn't the kind of king who sits in his throne room, alone and unaffected by what His people experience. Jesus isn't the kind of King who stands idly by while His people suffer. No, He's the kind of King who draws near to His people in humility and love and the kind of King who is intimately acquainted with all our ways.
- He is holy, but He's not far off.
- No matter what we've gone through in life. No matter what we've done. No matter what we've said. No matter what has been done to us. Jesus draws near.
- We often think that "there's no way God wants me." But the opposite is true. We think our sin pushes God away, but it's in those moments where His heart of mercy and grace runs towards us.

3. Jesus is the prophesied King who is present (verse 15).

- Verse 15 is a quote from the prophet Zechariah 9:9-11 that was given hundreds of years before Jesus came onto the scene and it's a prophecy that is focused clearly on the triumphal entry of Israel's Messiah-King.
- Fulfilled prophecy is huge because it underscores the faithfulness of God.
- We need to understand that God never makes a promise that He can't and won't keep.
- Fulfilled prophecy speaks to the eternity of God - that God has been, currently is, and will be forever.
- Jesus sees the end from the beginning and the natural response we should have is awe, wonder, and worship.

- God's faithfulness to His promises dispels fear and instills trust.

John 12:16

- Even Jesus' closest followers didn't fully understand all that Jesus was up to.
- If you have questions or don't fully understand, continue asking, seeking, and knocking and God will answer.

Application:

- **Is Jesus your King?**
- **What kingdom are you building?**