

## What Kind of King Are You Looking For? \* Luke 19:28-42

<sup>28</sup> And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: The Lord has need of it." <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> And they said, "The Lord has need of it." <sup>35</sup> And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> 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, <sup>38</sup> saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" <sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." <sup>40</sup> He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." <sup>41</sup> And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

The scripture that I just read came from Luke chapter 19, I hope you have it open in your Bible, and it is also in your handout this morning.

Today is Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter where traditionally in the church we read this passage of Jesus entering into Jerusalem that is recorded in all 4 Gospels. And the reason we read that passage on the Sunday before Easter is because this is exactly what was happening to Jesus – in Jesus' life – 7 days prior to Easter Sunday. That might sound obvious to some of you, but I say that so that we make sure that everyone in here knows that chronologically if we were to go back in time about 2,000 years, on this day, Jesus rides into Jerusalem with cheering crowds. A couple of days later He's betrayed by one of His followers Judas, He's dragged before the religious leaders in a bogus trial, the next day He is beaten, mocked, spit upon and finally stripped naked, and nailed to a Roman cross and murdered. Next Sunday we will gather and celebrate the fact that on the third day, or 7 days from this event we just read about, Jesus walks out of the tomb very much alive. And He remains alive, right now. And I really want us to be ready for that celebration, in many ways, everything is pointing to next Sunday.

I don't know about you, but I read this story – and I look at the people, the crowds – you know, a bunch of people like us. And I think, what's the matter with these people? I mean, what's the deal anyway? How on earth do you go from thousands of cheering, dancing people hollering, "HOSANNA, HOSANNA!" to 4 days later a seething mob of people screaming, "CRUCIFY HIM, CRUCIFY HIM!" What happened there? How did we get there? And I think to myself, "Well surely, if we were there, we wouldn't be a part of that! I'd be the only sane guy in the crowd. I mean, everyone else might leave you Jesus, but not me!" Yeah right, Peter.

No, you couldn't write that narrative, that story, with all the things that are taking place, and all the things that will happen the following week, unless you're God. Since the beginning of time, everything, as we heard last week from Chris Baker, everything has been pointing to Jesus. Pointing to the King coming. He's coming! And He rides in on a donkey? The crowd goes from, "Crown Him" to, "Kill Him" in like 72 hours? You think we would have been any different?

Do you have any idea how privileged we are to have this Book? They didn't have this Book. Do you have any idea how incredibly blessed we are to live on this side of history? I mean forget the iPod and heated seats... **we know the whole story.** But if you were there or if I were there on this day 2,000 years ago, what kind of King would you be looking for?

I just don't think we're all that different. The reason I say that is because I know that even now, sometimes, I'm looking for a different kind of King. That's what happened to those folks back then who were very likely very much like you and I. They were looking for a different kind of King. And many times you hear people say, "Meh, they just missed it! They missed it!" I don't think that's totally accurate. They didn't just miss it. Because I just read what they were screaming, "Blessed is the King... who comes in the name of the Lord!" No, they didn't miss it. They recognized Jesus as a King; they proclaimed it loudly in the streets. They got so much right; their words were right, but their hearts were wrong. How many times are our words are right, but our hearts are wrong! And when He didn't **do** what they thought or wanted the king to do, they rejected Him. They were looking for a different kind of king.

So this morning I want you to ask yourself some hard questions. I want this text and this message to prepare our hearts for this upcoming Easter week and Good Friday. What kind of king am I looking for? What kind of king will you put all your hope in? What kind of King is it that has come? Oh, I want you to see Him so clearly this morning. I want this to be the most glorious Easter week for you because you see Him in all his beauty, in all his glory, and mercy, and power. And kids in here, little ones, big ones, (kids come in all different ages you know just ask my wife.) I want you to know that I believe that this message is for you too! He wants more than anything for you to see His Son, the King. He brought to mind so many of your faces and so many of your names this week as I prepared this message, that I know He wants you to see Jesus clearly. Not the Jesus maybe you think you'd like to come, and not a wimpy, part time, guy in a robe who was powerless to save his own hide, but a King who is worth giving your whole life to.

I'll be upfront with you all right now, what I hope you'll do this week as we head toward Easter, here's how I've prayed this week, that sometime maybe later today when you are driving home in your car, or later tonight when you are alone with yourself, I'm praying that you'll say, "Jesus, I love you! I love you Jesus!" In a room this size I'll bet there are a hundred or more of you who haven't said that in years. I'm not talking about standing there with your arms at your side when we sing, "We adore you." When's the last time you were so moved by Him, that you just out loud said that to Him? I hope you will.

Let's pray. Father in heaven, show us our King this morning. Show us Jesus. From day to day or week to week, if we are honest, and we can't hide anything from you Father, we look for a different kind of king. We're more like the people in the crowds of Jerusalem than we care to admit. Today we want to see clearly the King that has come for us – and how incredible your love must be to send the kind of King we needed instead of the one maybe we wanted. So by your Spirit, show us what you Love to show more than anything, your Son! Please do that this morning, amen.

Remember, we're in Luke 19. Very briefly recall that the scene takes place coming into Jerusalem right before Passover. People were streaming in to offer sacrifices and to celebrate this Passover festival. That means the population of Jerusalem is going to swell by some estimates to hundreds of thousands – and other estimates put up to maybe 2 million people in Jerusalem. So the scene isn't like maybe what you've seen in some movies with a couple of hundred folks standing alongside a road, but thousands and thousands. It's likely that it's two crowds: one that has been following Jesus as He comes from Jericho where He healed two blind men, and one crowd from Jerusalem that was wanting to see this man Jesus who had raised Lazarus from the dead.

Let's walk through this text and see what kind of king these people were looking for – and honestly ask ourselves - is that the kind of king I'm sometimes looking for? And then we'll hold that up and look at the true picture, the kind of King that actually came for us in the person of Jesus, and instead of being disappointed, the difference will cause us to love Him!

The first thing I hope you see is that the folks in that crowd – and maybe us too – are looking for a king that will come in great power and riding this wave of authority. Verse 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 Why? for all the mighty works that they had seen.

Here he comes! He's coming in the name of the Lord, that's authority! Do you know what this King can do? Do you know the power and authority He has? With just a touch, leprosy vanishes, blind people see. He says a word and deaf people hear it. He's able to feed thousands with practically nothing but a Lunchable. Man, this King! He tells demons to go and they flee. He says arise and dead people get up. They had seen these things! Even water is under his authority. He's walked on it! He's turned it into wine. When it's wavy and choppy He says **be still** and it becomes still like glass. That's the King they wanted. Come, King! Because that King cannot be stopped! Pontius Pilate's going to fall before this King! He doesn't stand a chance! If demons obey him, these Roman monsters will have to obey him! He has **authority** over everything and everyone that's weighing us down! Come, King, we're going to the throne! This isn't the first time they were ready and fired up to do this. In John's Gospel right after Jesus had fed the 5,000, John 6:14-15 records this, When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" <sup>15</sup> Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Oh, they were right. Their words were right. He does have power and authority and He is going to the throne, but not the way they thought. **He wasn't the kind of King they were looking for.** He **wasn't** going to get to the throne of Israel with power and authority, He was headed to a throne all right. He was going to move to the throne at the right hand of God through mockery, and spitting, and betrayal, and nakedness, and rejection, and nails.

He didn't come wielding power and authority like we might have liked, that's the king they were looking for. Not with power, riding, authority, instead He came humble, riding a donkey. This scene that we are looking at today is a fulfillment of prophecy that had been written down some 500 years before. So it's no accident that Jesus is riding a donkey – wasn't even a full size donkey, it was a colt, or a baby donkey. Jesus knows exactly what's going on. It's no accident Jesus knew where to find that donkey, how it would be tied, He knew that it had never been ridden and what to say to its owner. The scene that's happening was described 500 years before Jesus was even born in Zechariah chapter 9, Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. (That's happening! Here he is.) 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.

What kind of a king are you looking for? Be honest. At work, wouldn't it be easier to talk about a king who history records as speaking a word and the rulers fall at his feet? Wouldn't it be something to have a king who came thundering into town on beautiful horses and all his enemies see the power and authority with which he comes, and they say, "That's the King we've been looking for." (Hang onto that picture – we'll talk about that later) But the king who came, came humbly riding a half sized donkey. Don't be disappointed in the one who came. **Don't mistake humility for weakness.** There's power there, great power and all authority. In verse 38 when the people were cheering, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord, Peace in Heaven and Glory in the highest." the Pharisees were saying, "Tell them to stop! Tell them to stop giving you these incredible accolades!" He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out. Why? Because the very universe was created for the praise of this King Jesus Christ; you exist, this building exists, that Jesus Christ might be made much of in this universe. And if we refuse to praise, the rocks will get the joy! You might say "How is that possible?" Because He's sovereign and powerful – and He can make rocks speak.

Like I said, we wouldn't have written it this way, but God did. He knows His people will admire power even more when it's merciful power. And we will admire mercy when it's powerful mercy. It wasn't His way to come the first time wielding power and authority, but I hope you will love and value Him this week - for the way he came, humble, righteous, having salvation. It's quite likely the crowd would **not** have shouted, "CRUCIFY HIM!" had He come in power, crushing all opposition they would have gladly served this King. Jesus would have had to say but a word and they would have made Him King of Israel – they would've served that King! But remember we have the gift of His Word and we know that He has said <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

If not for this humble king and the way He came, seated on the foal of a donkey, who was righteous, perfect and sinless, and bringing salvation, you and I, your friend at school, your mom, your child, and the person sitting in front of you, all of us would be waiting, passing the time until we die, only to be punished forever for the mountain of sin we have committed against a holy God. We needed Him to be humble, righteous, seated on a donkey, bringing salvation.

Don't you love the King who has come? Aren't you thankful for the way He came?

Another reason that I thought that maybe the crowd went from, "Hosanna" to "Crucify Him" was because this King apparently didn't see things coming. It's like He couldn't fix things. Caught him off guard and then this King couldn't fix things for us, or for Him! Do you ever wonder, or say, "Uh, Jesus? Do you not see the mess I'm in. Hello! Did you not see this coming? How did He not see this marriage falling apart? How did He not see that I would hate my job, and the struggles in school, and everything seems to be falling apart? And why doesn't he do something? Can't you do something about this? I mean, the king they were looking for, you drag him before Pilate, or Herod and Jesus is going to fix things pronto - for Him and for me! But obviously the King they were looking for **couldn't** be this guy. I mean here He is riding into town, thousands upon thousands of cheering men, women and children. I guess He never saw it coming, because look at Him, 4 days later and now He's standing there getting slapped around and silent before Herod, silent before Pilate.

No sir, that's not the king they were looking for. Let me tell you about the king they've been reading about in Isaiah 9:7, Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. That's the king and the kingdom they were looking for, that is never ending, it's ever expanding, nothing catches Him off guard! This is the wrong king. Some point to the tears that Jesus is shedding in verse 41, and they say, "See, how sad, His plans are frustrated. What He wanted to happen isn't happening. He's been thwarted. He can't do anything about it. He's broken hearted that what He wanted to accomplish, He can't accomplish."

Just a few weeks earlier, listen to what He says in Luke 18:31-33, <sup>1</sup> And taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written (that means it's planned!) about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. <sup>32</sup> For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. <sup>33</sup> And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise."

Two other times in Luke - Luke 9:22 <sup>22</sup> saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." Luke 9:43b-44 Jesus<sup>a</sup> said to his disciples, <sup>44</sup> "Let these words sink into your ears: (Do you hear that? Let these words sink into your ears. My mother used to say things like that to me) The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men."

Jesus isn't the King who came and got surprised, and was powerless to do anything about it. It's happening exactly as it has been planned before time. His tears are flowing because he loves Jerusalem, He loves you, and He loves the people who will not have Him –they were looking for the wrong kind of king! And He knew that 40 years later Jerusalem would be obliterated and souls would be lost.

He's not the accidental king who stumbled into the wrong place and tragically got Himself killed. He's the "On purpose King" who came to earth, who came to Jerusalem to die in your place. He came to die.

He doesn't miss your struggle, or your cancer, or your troubled heart. He didn't accidentally miss the oppression of Israel under Rome. He wasn't caught off guard when your wife, or your husband, or your child died. This King came to die so that you might never die. You know I got to this point in preparing this message and I wanted to be able to show you in the Scriptures some of the reasons this King came to die. And so I leaned back in my chair and out of the corner of my eye I saw this book sitting on a stack of papers. Pastor Chris had stopped into my office and given it to me right before he left. Chris brings a lot of books into my office and says, "Hey, you should check this out." Chris reads faster than I do, but it's a book that we will be giving to our guests that you will be inviting to Easter Sunday next week. The title of the book is *50 Reasons Why Jesus Christ Came to Die* by John Piper. Seeing the book, I began to flip through it, and suddenly I found myself flooded and wanting to just show slide after slide of scripture that shows a picture of the King who has come and how superior He is to any King I would be looking for. But I had to pick just one that demonstrates He wasn't caught off guard – but rather came on purpose and accomplished what we never could – and what we desperately needed in Hebrews 2:14-15, *Since therefore the children (that's us) share in flesh and blood, (since we are human) he himself likewise partook of the same things, (He became human) so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.* That's the King we are looking for who came on purpose and died with a purpose so that our accuser, Satan, would have no claims to us. But that our record would be spotless and we will live and worship Jesus forever. Death is dead!

I suppose the crowds that met Jesus and cheered his arrival but a few days later said, "That's not the King we are looking for, so crucify him." I suppose there were a lot of different answers you might have gotten from them of what kind of King they were looking for. But I'd venture a guess that then – and today – it would kind of boil down to 1 simple statement: People were (and are) looking for a king to come on their terms. They want a king on their terms, whatever those terms are.

There are lots of different terms. Some want a private king - pull me out of a jam – and then back into the closet, king! Some say, "Here are my terms, King, I follow you – you get me stuff." That's the deal. Here's the terms I give Him a lot of the time: first of all, you don't get to be king of like everything in my life, and the things I do well in – I'll take the credit ok? If you're good with that, I guess you can be King. The throng of people wanted Jesus to throw off Rome and set them up with their land back, and all the prominence restored

to Israel. That's their terms. Jesus wouldn't deliver them on their terms, and they wouldn't be delivered on His.

When Jesus pulled up after all the cheering, He looked out over the city in verse 41 and He wept over it. Jesus doesn't cry much in the Bible, but He wept and then He said in verse 42, "Saying – Would that you, even you, had known on this day – the things that make for peace! But now – they are hidden from your eyes." The things that make for peace.

The things that make for peace. Jesus used that same phrase only one other time in Luke, when he was telling the parable in Luke Chapter 14, What king going to encounter another king in war will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an embassy and asks *terms of peace*.

"Terms of peace" is the same phrase translated "things that make for peace" in our verse 42 this morning. So the picture we should have in our minds as Jesus approaches Jerusalem for the last time.... is that a king is coming to a rebellious city, a Hostile world.... People looking for their own kind of King – on their own terms – and they resist against his rightful authority. Would that you, even you, had known on this day – the things – **the terms** of peace! The King is willing to make peace, but only on His own terms, and only for a short time.

Now is the time for peace. Do you know we are still in this season of peace and you and I get to be His ambassadors – taking that offer to people all around us who need to know it's not too late? I hope you'll invite them to come and hear a message next week – the greatest news ever! But do you know that the time for peace is now? There is a time coming soon where the offer will be no more. Do you know that the King is going to switch horses very soon. No more humble. No more half-sized donkey. Revelation 19:11-12, Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. No more terms of Peace. It goes on to describe eyes like a flame of fire (no more tears for Jerusalem) and on His head are many diadems (no crown of thorns) and no one will wonder if He is the kind of king they are looking for. Verse 16, On His robe and on his thigh he has a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Then it will be too late. Now is the time, today He offers terms of peace.

And His terms for peace are simple: lay down your arms, especially the weapons of self righteousness and self sufficiency, those are hard ones to let go of, admit your defeat and accept your free and full pardon, total amnesty, and swear your allegiance to this King – who came offering peace some 2000 years ago humble and riding on a donkey.

I hope you've seen Jesus clearly this morning. I thought it would be appropriate for us to spend some time in prayer this morning together as a family.

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