

## Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore — April 5, 2020 Easter Series — “The Misunderstood King”

### Introduction

- We now understand why He came — Obedience to His Father’s Will, as was spoken about since the beginning of time.
- All of scripture has spoken about His coming and sacrifice.
- Jesus has revealed on multiple occasions that He would have to suffer and die.
- Now, His kingdom come, at least for His earthly ministry, is coming to an end.
- As we pointed out last week, Jesus would suffer and die for three reasons:
  1. God’s will.
  2. **Israel’s ultimate rejection, and for the salvation of all humanity.**
  3. Victory over death and Salvation to glory!

### Scripture Reading (**Matthew 21:1-11**)

1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’” 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” 10 And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” 11 And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

### Jesus’ Triumphal Entry in to Jerusalem

- **Why Palm Sunday?**
  - This has roots in Jewish tradition
    - **[Instruction given for the Feast of Booths] Leviticus 23:40**, “And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days.”
  - But we also see this as a portion of our worship in eternity!
    - **Revelation 7:9-10**, “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

- So at the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, He would ride in to Jerusalem as a symbolic gesture, showing the people WHO He is and again, WHY He came.
- The Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem took place during the Passover Feast.
  - Celebrating God's protection during His judgement over Egypt.
  - The centerpiece of the feast is the Passover Lamb.
    - **Exodus 12**, "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. ...Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it...The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever."
  - As the palm branch has its roots in praise to God, so the sacrificial Passover lamb has semblance to our King, who would sacrifice his life so we would not incur the wrath and judgment of God.
    - **[John the Baptist speaking of Jesus] John 1:29**, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

### Verses 2-5

**2** saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. **3** If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." **4** This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, **5** "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

- This is spoken to fulfill what Zechariah would prophecy
  - **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."
  - When kings or rulers would enter a city riding a horse, it was a symbol of power, authority, and war.
  - However, when they entered riding a donkey, it was a symbol of service and peace.
    - Jesus was not entering Jerusalem to overthrow the Roman government. He was not there to war against the entrenched religious elite.
    - He rode in as an unblemished lamb, ready for sacrifice, to bring peace and salvation to all people!
      - That is why His entry in to Jerusalem is triumphant!

### Verses 8-9

**8** Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9** And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were

shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

- Spreading their cloaks on the ground before Jesus was an act of paying homage to royalty.
  - 1 Kings 1: King Solomon rode on a donkey during his coronation ceremony.
  - 2 Kings 9: The people of Israel laid their cloaks on the ground during King Jehu’s coronation.
    - All these are symbolic gestures to royalty.
- Yet, the people did not understand
- **Hosanna! [“give salvation now”]**
  - **Psalms 118:25-26**, “Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord.”
  - The people were declaring that Jesus was their King!
  - But this King’s triumphal entry was less than spectacular. It was in fact, misunderstood.
    - Some were shouting (as was common during Passover), “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
    - Some shouted, “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”
  - There seemed to be a veiled sense of praise for Jesus as a political king. But also as the promised Messiah.
    - Were they to fully understand what Jesus had to come to Jerusalem to do, I believe the welcoming crowd would have ahead a much different response.

## Application

- God has blessed us with the full account of His word.
  - In hindsight, we now have full understanding of why He temporarily gave up His heavenly throne.
  - We know why He rode in to Jerusalem as a ‘servant-king’, the Lamb of God made ready for sacrifice.
  - The phrase that set this whole series off was this:
    - **He was born to die. Only to be raised in glory. So that we may live.**
    - In obedience to God’s will, His purpose was to die for us.
- In the literary world, there is something called ‘foreshadowing’.
  - We’ve seen this take place in the form of the Passover Lamb.
- Multiple times in scripture we see God’s salvation and provision for His people.
- This is why Jesus came and rode triumphantly in to Jerusalem. It was a kingly sacrifice for the salvation of His people...ALL His people!
  - **John 1:29**, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

- We can not afford to NOT understand who Jesus is and why He came!
  - **Luke 19:41-44**, “And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 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. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.’”
    - In one sense, this is a prophetic statement made by Jesus.
      - Jerusalem would be utterly destroyed by the Romans in the year A.D. 70.
    - In another sense, we see Jesus grieving for those who are allowing themselves to be blinded by their own sin, and not accept Him for who He is.
  - In the next few days, Jesus would be arrested and sentenced to die.
    - This is what we will remember and celebrate on Friday..Good Friday.
  
- **Did you miss the parade?**
  - Have you had a misunderstanding of who Jesus is?
  - It’s not too late. The time is NOW, to receive the peace of salvation that only Jesus can provide.
  - **The Gospel**
    - **Mark 1:15**, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
      1. **God’s Design**
        - God’s creation, which includes you, was made to be good.
          - **Genesis 1:31**, “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”
      2. **Sin & Brokenness**
        - When we ignore God and His plan for us, and do our own thing, it is sin.
        - Our sin distorts God’s original design.
        - The consequence of our sin is separation from God
          - **Romans 3:23**, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
          - **Romans 6:23**, “For the wages of sin is death.”
        - Sin will always lead to a place of brokenness. We can see this all over the place in our life and the world around us.
          - **Romans 1:25**, “because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator.”
        - There will come a time when you typically look for a way out.
        - You will come to a place where you realize the need for something greater.
      3. **Gospel**

- Here's the Good News! Jesus is our remedy.
- Because of God's love for us, He did not leave us in our brokenness.
- He sent His only Son to rescue us, because we can't do it on our own.
- This is what His death on the cross does for us. He forgives our sin, heals our brokenness, and restores us to a relationship with Himself.
- **John 3:16-17**, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."
- **Colossians 2:13-14 NLT**, "You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross."
- When Jesus began His ministry, He declared that His kingdom had come. That we must repent and believe the gospel.
- You must admit your sinful brokenness and stop trusting in yourself.
- We must ask God to forgive us, turn from our sin, and trust in Jesus.
- **Ephesians 2:8-9**, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."
- **Romans 10:9**, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
- This is when life in Jesus begins!
- You will discover your meaning and purpose in a broken world and see God in it.
- God's Spirit will empower you to pursue His design for life and assure us of His presence in this life and for all eternity!
- **Ephesians 2:10**, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

## Conclusion

- We must put our faith in Jesus. We must believe in Him.
- He came triumphantly, in peace, to save you from your sin and brokenness.
- That is why He came. Will you trust in Him today?

## Prayer

- **Romans 10:9**, “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”
- **Romans 10:13**, “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Jesus, my life is broken — I recognize it’s because of my sin that I need you. I believe that Christ came to live, die, and was raised from the dead, to rescue me from my sin. — Forgive me. I turn from my selfish ways and put my trust in You. — I know that Jesus is Lord of all, and I will follow him.