

The Courageous King - Palm Sunday

Scripture - Matthew 21:1-11, Zechariah 9:9-10

Objective - He is the Lord, the absolute authority over all things. The question is, does He have all authority over your life?

Zechariah 9:9-10(ESV)

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. 10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Matthew 21:1-11(ESV)

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 has all authority

Riding a donkey signified peace

Riding into Jerusalem on a donkey is a highly intentional move by Jesus. In the ancient world, if a king rode into town on a horse he intended war and aggression; but if he rode into town on a donkey, he intended peace. Jesus rode into town on a donkey to demonstrate his kingship will be one of peace!

That is why Zechariah 9:10 is important. This is a Messianic prophecy that Jesus is fulfilling. He is the Anointed One, the Messiah, the king coming into town proclaiming peace instead of conflict.

John 12:16(ESV) 16 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.

Jesus proclaims Himself King

This is no small thing! The crowds declared Jesus to be “the prophet from Nazareth” (21:11), but that’s not what Jesus claimed for Himself. He was more than a moral teacher and more than a prophet. He was —and is— the King and Messiah.

During his life and ministry Jesus consistently demonstrated true authority. Jesus had —and still has— all authority over nature, demons, sickness, and death.

He spoke with authority and not like someone who memorized all the right answers (Mark 1:22). He protected people from storms and waves (Mark 4:39); healed them from blindness (John 9:7), leprosy (Matthew 8:3), and fevers (Mark 1:31); set them free from evil spirits (Matthew 8:32), and demons (Luke 4:41) and more. At Jesus’ word the devil left him (Matthew 4:10).

Demons left, fevers disappeared, and paralysis went away because he had all authority over them.

Nature had to obey him because nature is under his authority. The devil and his demons had to obey him because they also are under his authority. The same with sickness and disease: they are fully under his authority. Just as God spoke the cosmos into existence

in Genesis, everything under Jesus' authority must comply with whatever he speaks because he is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Jesus is courageous

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem had been planned and it wasn't on a whim. The timing was perfect. The Jewish leaders were already plotting to kill Jesus. The most dangerous way Jesus could enter the city was in broad daylight with a lot of attention and noise from the thousands of spectators. And that's exactly what he did.

Jesus courageously made himself the sacrificial Lamb entering the city.

Your part:

Who do you say Jesus is?

Matthew 21:10-11 (ESV) 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."

They thought He was a prophet. Who do you say He is?

Do you understand that Jesus came to save you?

They shouted, "Hosanna!" which means "Save now!"

John 3:17 (NLT) 17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Jesus showed us how to live with courage

You will do the right thing regardless of the consequences.

You will feel fear but do it anyway.

You will not stop at failure.

You will risk being criticized.

You will pursue purpose over comfort.