



Pastor Saolomon Mouacheupao—The Upside Down King—Matt. 21:1-11

Main Idea: Jesus is the only king who saves sinners, so worship Him

Sermon Summary:

1. In USA we are not accustomed to royal processions. Britain is more so with their royal family. And even we have some presidential and sports parades and Oscar red carpets. In today's text, we see an unusual procession—King Jesus entering Jerusalem not as a war mongering conqueror—but humble and peaceful, on a donkey with palm branches and cloaks strewn on His path. It was indeed a triumphal entry that became a worship service as the crowds shouted Hosanna in the highest. But then God's kingdom is upside down—where the 1st shall be last, and the greatest is servant of all. And King Jesus comes to die for and purchase redemption for us-- His enemies. What a King He is.

- The story context is this is the last week of Jesus' life and the peak of his conflict with Jewish leaders. He will soon turn over tables in the temple, pronounce 7 woes on the leaders and prophecy the destruction of Jerusalem and end times.
- Jesus tells his disciples to go get 2 donkeys—just say the Lord needs them. Jesus has a plan—God always does. And most of the time we have little idea of His plans. God loves faith—and develops it in us. Jesus' plan centers on the fulfillment of OT prophecy—Zech. 9:9. Jesus knew His bible well.
- Ps. 118—Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—Hosanna. Up to now Jesus was telling folks to be quiet about Him. No longer—not with his triumphal entry. The Jewish leaders knew exactly what the people were shouting—this is the King—the Messiah. They told Jesus to silence them—but then the stones would cry out!
- Yet Jesus was not the overthrowing, militaristic king the Jews expected. He was the suffering servant of Isa. 53.
- Jesus is King of the Jews—and of everyone. One Day, at His second coming, every knee will bow to Him. Satan's temptation to give worldly kingdoms to Jesus—immediately and without conflict and suffering—was not God's way.
- The Jewish leaders called Jesus King of the Jews mockingly. The leaders protested when Pilate wrote it above His cross. Kings brutalize and kill their enemies. But not Jesus—He dies for His enemies. He alone is worthy of all our worship.
- Jesus is reigning even now seated at the Father's right hand. His enemies are—and will be—His footstool. He is indeed now and has been for 2k years blessing all the nations. He cannot fail. He will succeed in every detail of His plan.
- Jesus must be King over every single part of life. We must love and obey Him above everyone and everything else.
- Jesus invites us to be part of His victory. He has commanded us to go and make disciples of all nations.
- Bethel church has about 200 attenders. This is a drop in the bucket compared to the millions in Chicagoland. But look what God did with a few loaves and fish.

Questions (select some to discuss):

- Is it surprising that Almighty God, Creator of all, King-incarnate, came as a humble, lowly, suffering servant? Why?
 - Why did He not come as powerful, King of the universe? He will one Day. Why not start that way?
- Pastor Saolomon reminded us the most important question in life is: “Who do you say Jesus is?” So, what do you say?
- One of the hardest, most convicting questions of life: what truly excites and animates you *the most*? Security? Control? Money? Power? Sex/lust? Work? Sports? Certain relationships? Are you willing to repent and give it to Jesus?
- Many people have secret sins that few people know about. What are some of the hurdles that people have when it comes to confessing sin?
- Has there ever been a time when you have taken the leap of faith to confess sin to someone else before? What was that like?
- Reflect on your life: have hard times and struggles moved you closer to Jesus—or further away?
- If you are a Christian, do you believe King Jesus has commanded you—yes, you—to bear witness of Him to others?
 - Are you consistently bearing witness of Christ to others? Why or why not? Please be honest.
 - What are some things you have found helpful when it comes to sharing the Gospel with others?