

See your King comes to you (Zechariah 9:9-13 & John 12:12-19)

14-Apr-19 (Palm Sunday)

Today we're looking at the events of the first Palm Sunday - just a few days before Jesus is arrested and killed.

There are Bibles in front of you and a sermon outline in the bulletin if you want to take notes.

Let me pray for God's help before we begin. Let's pray...

Intro

[PowerPoint 1-Mary]

Last week we learnt about one of Jesus' friends, **Mary** - the sister of Lazarus - the guy Jesus had raised from the dead - and we learnt that **Mary anointed Jesus - with oil** - to show that Jesus was God's Chosen and Anointed One - **the Messiah King**

And as we saw last week - there were various responses to King Jesus

But there shouldn't really have been any surprise as to Jesus' identity

The whole of the OT is a signpost to Jesus

[PowerPoint 2-Signpost]

As the hymn goes:

*God has spoken by His prophets,
spoken His unchanging Word;
each from age to age proclaiming*

God the One, the righteous Lord;

Through His Prophets - God has spoken of His rescue plan

God promised to send a Messiah King

And in our NT passage today - The Messiah King - King Jesus arrived in Jerusalem

How should we treat royalty when they arrive?

Like this?

[PowerPoint 3-Paul Keating]

Or like this?

[PowerPoint 4-Donald Trump]

Mr. Keating and Mr. Trump - misread the situation - didn't they?

(pause)

With all due respect to our Queen Elizabeth - King Jesus - is way more important!

Prophecy of a King (Zechariah 9:9-10)

[PowerPoint 5-Zech 9:9-10]

In our OT passage - Zechariah 9:9-13

[Please turn there now]

The Prophet Zechariah - around about 500 BC

Gave a prophecy from God

Of a time of a future king coming to Israel

See verse 9

This King is **righteous** - He is right with God and Holy

And **victorious** - He comes in victory - He will defeat His enemies

He will come riding - not on a stallion for war - but on a **lowly donkey**

The donkey symbolizes a **humble and peaceful king** - not a military warring king

Verse 10

This future King will offer **peace to all nations** - not just to the people of Israel - but to the whole world - and He will **rule** His Kingdom which is **to the ends of the Earth**

But it's a different type of peace and it's a different type of kingdom - as we'll see..

(pause)

The King comes in Peace (Zechariah 9:9-13)

We fast forward to Jesus - time - about 33AD

[PowerPoint 6-Peace]

To see how this prophecy is fulfilled

Jesus - came into Jerusalem

It was a festival time in Jerusalem - the annual festival of the Passover - a festival the Jews have celebrated since the time of Moses (and still do) - the Passover remembered and celebrated the event in Egypt when the Jewish

people - painted blood from a lamb on their door posts and door frames - so that when God sent death on the firstborn to punish Egypt for mistreating the Israelites - this death punishment passed over the houses of the Israelites - and no one was killed

Jewish Historian, Josephus, gave figures of over 2 million people in Jerusalem at the time of a Passover - 30 years after Jesus - many of them visiting from faraway places - for the Passover Festival

So, it's likely there were 2 million people in Jerusalem for the Passover in Jesus' time.

Jesus can't speak to them all - there's no TV or radio - or Twitter or Facebook

But He still makes a statement about who He is

By riding into Jerusalem on a donkey

Jesus fulfilled 2 prophecies

One from Psalm 118:25-26 [quoted in John 12 v13]

Hosanna!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord

Blessed is the King of Israel

The other from Zechariah 9:9 [quoted in John 12 v15]

Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion

See your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt

By doing this - Jesus is saying:

I am the promised Messiah King

I come today -riding on a donkey - not as a warrior military king

But as a King coming in peace

The people have missed the point [a bit like Mr. Keating and Mr. Trump) - and they think Jesus is a military leader

But by riding on a donkey - Jesus had come in peace - not to fight a military war

He's come to bring peace between God and humankind -

A peace that had been broken because of human's sin and rebellion against God

Just in the same way that the Blood of the Passover Lamb had stopped the people dying

And just as the blood of sacrificed animals - sacrificed to God in the temple in the OT - had stopped people being punished for their sin

Now Jesus is saying through

Zechariah 10:11 - [because of the blood of my covenant – I will free prisoners from the waterless pit](#)

Jesus is making a statement about - a new blood covenant - that He will make - in less than a week's time - from the day he rode into Jerusalem

A new blood covenant - which will mean Him dying on a cruel Roman cross - and pouring out His blood as a sacrifice for sin - once and for all

As Heb 9:22 says:

In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

So, the peace Jesus brings is the forgiveness of sins - to make people right with God again

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem

He was saying:

I'm the Messiah, I'm God, I'm the only one who can bring peace between humans and God - And I won't be doing it with a war against the Romans

I'll be doing it with a war against sin - I will have to lose my life - so that you guys can go free from the punishment of your sins

He was also saying

It's no coincidence I'm riding into town to die - at the time of the Passover Festival - because you know why - I'm the Passover Lamb - like the one your ancestors slaughtered all those years ago - so they didn't die

I'm going to be slaughtered on a cross - so you don't have to be punished for your sins - and you don't have to die!

All those OT scriptures point to me!

The King's Welcome (John 12:12-19)

So, as we look at John chapter 12 - verses 12 to 19

[\[Please turn to John 12 - verses 12 to 19 now\]](#)

As Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem

[\[PowerPoint 7-King's Welcome\]](#)

The crowd was enormous

The crowd welcomed Him with **actions** and **words**

Their actions - they met Him with palm branches

Palms were a recognised symbol of the Jewish state since the time of the Maccabees - when Judas Maccabeus - a Jewish priest - led the Maccabean Revolt against the Greek Seleucid Empire. The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah commemorates how Judas Maccabeus restored Jewish temple worship in Jerusalem in 164BC - when Judas Maccabeus removed all the statues of Greek gods and goddesses from the temple (a fulfilment of Zechariah 9:13 - Judah and Ephraim defeating Greece)

Palms were so popular that they appeared on the Jewish coins at the time of the revolt and on Roman coins when they eventually took control of Israel.

So, the use of palms shows a deep nationalistic fervor and excitement

The people have great expectations - could this Jesus be another Judas Maccabeus - this time defeating the Romans

The palms were laid on the floor - along with coats and cloaks - like a red carpet today - to show this is a very important person - and that very important person doesn't have to walk on mud or dirt.

Their **words** - in v13 of John 12

Hosanna!

Literally - Save us now!

But save them from what?

From the Romans?

That's not Jesus' plan

His Plan - is to save people from sin!

Their **words**:

Hosanna – Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

They are quoting from Psalm 118

Psalm 118 - is the last of the Hallel [praise] Psalms - Psalms 113-118 - are psalms of praise and thanksgiving and joy.

When the Jews sang these psalms and they came to the word Hosanna

They waved their lulah (lulavs) - which were bunches of willow and myrtle tied with palms -

And the words: **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord** - were understood to be referring to the coming of the Messiah

The people's excitement has been fueled by the fact that people who witnessed the raising of Lazarus have come to the city - and were spreading the word (in v17)

To calm this nationalistic fervor - and their eagerness for a warrior king to defeat the Romans

Jesus entered on a **donkey**

His message should have been clear

He's not a warrior leader like Judas Maccabeus who entered Jerusalem on a war horse or like King Solomon who had 4000 chariots and 12000 horses

No! Jesus is lowly (gentle and humble) riding on a donkey

Jesus demilitarizes the situation

Nothing could be clearer really

But the disciples we're told - didn't understand all of this (v16)

They're too close to the situation and the excitement is fever pitched

If Jesus can raise people from the dead - He can do anything - even get rid of the Romans

Only later we're told in v16 - do the disciples understand

Once Jesus is *glorified*

By glorified - we're talking of Jesus' death on a cross on Good Friday - not winning a war against the Romans - but winning the war on sin by removing the punishment for sin - which brought *glory* to Jesus and the God the Father - because Jesus did the Father's will.

Meanwhile - The Pharisees (a religious group who followed both scripture and the oral traditions that had been passed down from generation to generation - and they gave oral traditions equal authority to the scriptures - and so they would often follow man-made rules) The Pharisees had a lot of power and influence. They didn't want to lose that power by people following Jesus.

Their attempt to contain Jesus' influence and popularity had failed - as they say in v19 - [we're getting nowhere - the whole world has gone after him.](#) Their only option is to execute Jesus - but they will need to be careful how they engineer this...

Who is King Jesus?

Palm Sunday

[\[PowerPoint 8-Who is King Jesus?\]](#)

Shows us that Jesus is

- He is - The Messiah King promised and sent by God

- He is - The King of Peace (making peace between God and humans)
- He is a non-military King
- His Kingdom is Universal - available to all who care to believe in Him
- And His Kingdom is divisive - some will welcome Him with enthusiasm - some will give Him up when they realize He's not a warrior military king - and some will reject Him and plot His downfall - because they want to be king of their own lives - like the Pharisees

Responses to Palm Sunday

[PowerPoint 9-Heading]

3 responses to Palm Sunday

1. We live in a fallen broken world - where there is a rival power - this rival power is not a king - he is the prince of this world - Satan. Even though He is a defeated enemy - he can still wreak havoc in our lives. The coming of Jesus the King - produces a spiritual battle between two kingdoms - the kingdom of light (Jesus) and the kingdom of darkness (Satan). In this battle - Light confronts darkness; and life encounters death. The Coming of Jesus' Kingdom - confronts any rival kingdoms - including our own selfish sinful kingdom.

[PowerPoint 9a-Is Jesus king of our life?]

So, the question for all of us is - is Jesus really king of our life? All the time? Sometimes? Rarely? Not at all? It's a serious question that requires an honest answer - and has eternal consequences. What do we need to repent of to make Jesus King of our life?

(pause)

[PowerPoint 9b-Spread the Word]

2. Spread the good news that Jesus the King has power over sin and death. Like those who witnessed Lazarus being raised from the dead - we are to be witnesses to King Jesus - Easter time is a great opportunity to share our faith and the true meaning of Easter.

(pause)

[PowerPoint 9c-Return to God and have hope and rejoice]

3. Zechariah 9:12 says - **Return to your fortress** (our spiritual fortress is God) **you prisoners of hope** (we were once prisoners of sin - but now we have hope because King Jesus came) - **I will restore twice as much to you** - as powerful as the bondage of sin is - being restored to God and forgiven through the blood of Jesus is doubly powerful - and is a cause for great rejoicing - rejoicing like we saw in Jerusalem as Jesus entered. Palm Sunday is a day for us to get out our palm branches and rejoice - because Jesus is the King - He's the King of kings and Lord of lord's.

Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings!

(pause)

See your King comes to you!

Let's pray...