

NEW DAY... NEW WAY

Jesus the King

TEXT: John 12:12-15; 18:33-37; 19:3,14-15,19-22

INTRODUCTION: Throughout the life and ministry of Jesus, He rightfully acquired many titles. He was called the Son of God, Messiah, Christ, the light of the world, living water, the door, the way, the truth, the life.

But in the last week of His life upon the earth, a new title came into common use by all of the people, both those who loved Him and those who despised Him. To show it to you, I must bridge the gap in our weekly readings, taking some from last week and some from the first part of next week.

Listen for that title as I read selected portions of John's gospel that describe the events between Jesus' triumphal entry and the crucifixion.

John 12:12-15 ¹² The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out:

"Hosanna!
'Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the LORD!
The King of Israel!"

¹⁴ Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

¹⁵ "Fear not, daughter of Zion;
Behold, your King is coming,
Sitting on a donkey's colt."

18:33-37 ³³ Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

³⁴ Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?"

³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?"

³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?”

Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

19:3, 14-15, 19-22 ³ Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck Him with their hands. ¹⁴ Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!”

¹⁵ But they cried out, “Away with *Him*, away with *Him*! Crucify Him!”

Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?”

The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!”

¹⁹ Now Pilate wrote a title and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was:

JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁰ Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, *and* Latin.

²¹ Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘He said, “I am the King of the Jews.””

²² Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

In this portion of the life of Jesus, let us look together to see Jesus the King.

I. THE KING PRESENTED

A. It was time for the King.

Dan. 9:25 “Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;
The street shall be built again, and the wall,
Even in troublesome times.

At the beginning of May we were reading Daniel, and we read this prophecy. In it, **God said Messiah would come in 69 (7+62) weeks,**

literally, 69 “sevens.”

Turns out **those sevens are not seven days but seven years.**

God said, “In 483 years, I send Messiah the Prince to Jerusalem!”

From the command recorded in Nehemiah 2 by King Artaxerxes Longimanus until Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday was 483 years to the day!

It was time for the King!

B. The King would come riding a young donkey.

Zech. 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your King is coming to you;
He *is* just and having salvation,
Lowly and riding on a donkey,
A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Those who knew the Word of God would recognize this sign. God was giving them every opportunity to recognize their King.

C. Some of the people received Him as King.

John 12:12-13 ¹² The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out:

“Hosanna!
'Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the LORD!
The King of Israel!”

D. Jesus purposefully offered Himself as King.

John 12:14-15 ¹⁴ Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

¹⁵ “Fear not, daughter of Zion;
Behold, your King is coming,
Sitting on a donkey’s colt.”

E. He still does.

II. THE KING REJECTED

A. A few received Jesus as Messiah and King, but most did not.

John 19:14-15 ¹⁴ Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!”

¹⁵ But they cried out, “Away with *Him*, away with *Him*! Crucify Him!”

Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

What wretched words for the chief priest to utter! They themselves recited prayers daily that addressed God as King of the Universe. But that was the problem; those words were mere recitations.

Without intending to do so, they spoke honestly from their heart.

If your heart spoke honestly this morning, without regard for who might hear, on earth or in heaven, who or what would it declare is the king of your life?

B. Every person either receives or rejects King Jesus.

Mt. 12:30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

There is no middle ground!

Which crowd are you in?

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

III. THE KING DECLARED

A. Even Pilate declared Jesus to be a King.

John 19:19-22 ¹⁹ Now Pilate wrote a title and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was:

JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁰ Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, *and* Latin.

²¹ Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews.'""

²² Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

B. God will universally declare that Jesus is King of Kings.

Rev. 19:11, 16 ¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:

**KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.**

C. Regardless of whether you decide to receive Jesus or reject Him, Jesus is still King!

CONCLUSION: Would you declare Jesus King of your heart today?

Would you love Him and live for Him and walk with Him, allowing Him to rule your life as King and Lord?

Would you allow a triumphal entry of the King of Kings into your heart and life today?