

## **Behold Your King** **John 12:12-15**

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."  
NKJV

In America we gave the King the boot back in 1776. We developed a government without a king or queen or any royalty. We disdain the idea of nobility. We like the idea of independence and freedom.

The other night there was a documentary on the Queen of England. It amazed me how little people know about her. She lives quite an exclusive life. She lives apart from the common people. She has hundreds of servants to take care of her needs.

But our King did not live that type of life. He lived with the common people. He had no servants to wait on Him and on one occasion He washed His own disciple's feet. He suffered as a common criminal, crucified between two thieves.

But today that has all changed. He is seated on the throne in heaven with millions of angels to carry out His bidding. And He has on earth millions who suffer for Him and His kingdom's sake. Every week He has millions who come together to worship Him and to hear His word.

Let us try to understand this King of ours and what brought Him to Jerusalem this day two thousand years ago and what happened there.

- I. The King came lowly and riding on a colt of a donkey. V-13
  - A. This was a fulfilment of Zech 9:9
    - 1. 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.  
NKJV

2. The word lowly means humble or meek.
- B. Jesus came just this way.
1. Luke 22:27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. NKJV
  2. John 13: 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. NKJV
  3. Acts 8:32-33 32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth." NKJV
  4. 2 Cor 8: 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. NKJV
  5. Phil 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. NKJV
- II. The King came in the Name of the Lord. V-15
- A. This King Jesus does not merely represent Himself.
    1. To accept Him is to accept God
    2. To reject Him is to reject God.
  - B. That qualifies Him above all others born of women.
    1. His authority cannot be denied.
    2. His authority cannot be resisted.
    3. His authority cannot be overcome.
- III. The people rightly rejoiced in their King. V-12-13
- A. He is a good King so all His subjects rejoice in Him.
  - B. This King seeks only the best for His subjects.
  - C. Jesus gives His joy both now and forever to His own.

- IV. Their eternal destiny depended on accepting the King.
- A. They accepted Him.
1. On this Palm Sunday they rejoiced and accepted Jesus.
  2. They understood that Jesus was going to establish the kingdom of David and destroy the domination by the Romans.
  3. With all the mass hysteria of the crowd they could not be silenced.
- B. They rejected Him
1. Once they understood that His kingdom was spiritual and not material they had no use for Him.
  2. Once they saw that they could not become rich or privileged as His follower their allegiance turned to hatred.
  3. Only a week later they cried out to crucify Him.
  4. Away with this man, we will not have him to rule over us.
- C. In accord with a parable spoken by Jesus was fulfilled.
1. Matt 22:1-10 And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, 3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'" 5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. 6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' 10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. NKJV
  2. Matt 21:33-41 "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. 34 Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. 35 And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. 37 Then last of all he

sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son .' 38 But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves,'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' 39 So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

40 "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?"

41 They said to Him,"He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." NKJV

- V. On His return, Jesus will be a Sovereign King.
- A. All those who took advantage of God's longsuffering in this age will be horrified to find Jesus returning as a the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
  - B. He is pictured as having a sword proceeding from His mouth by which He slays those who come against Him.
  - C. We have no respect for kings in our culture, but Jesus is above our culture and does not operate His kingdom as a democracy.

When Queen Victoria had just ascended her throne she went, as is the custom of Royalty, to hear "The Messiah" rendered. She had been instructed as to her conduct by those who knew, and was told that she must not rise when the others stood at the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus. When that magnificent chorus was being sung and the singers were shouting "Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth," she sat with great difficulty. It seemed as if she would rise in spite of the custom of kings and queens, but finally when they came to that part of the chorus where with a shout they proclaim Him King of kings suddenly the young queen rose and stood with bowed head, as if she would take her own crown from off her head and cast it at His feet. Let us make Him King and every day be loyal to Him. This is the secret of peace. (J. Wilbur Chapman)

There was a certain king whose son was sent upon an errand to a far country, and when he came into that country, although he was the lawful prince of it, he found that the citizens would not acknowledge him. They mocked at him, jeered at him, and took him and set him in the pillory, and there they scoffed at him and pelted him with filth. Now, there was one in that country who knew the prince, and he alone stood up for him when all the mob was in tumult raging against him. And when they set him on high as an object of scorn, this man stood side by side with him to wipe the filth from that dear royal face; and when from cruel hands missiles in scorn were thrown, this man took his full share; and whenever he could he thrust himself before the prince to ward off the blows from him if possible, and to bear the scorn instead of him. Now it came to pass that after awhile the prince went on his way, and in due season the man who had been the prince's friend was called to the king's palace. And on a day when all the princes of the court were around, and the peers and nobles of the land were sitting in their places, the king came to his throne and he

called for that man, and he said, "Make way, princes and nobles! Make way! Here is a man more noble than you all, for he stood boldly forth with my son when he was scorned and scoffed at! Make way, I say, each one of you, for he shall sit at my right hand with my own son. As he took a share of his scorn, he shall now take a share of his honor." And there sat princes and nobles who wished that they had been there--they now envied the man who had been privileged to endure scorn and scoffing for the prince's sake! You need not that I interpret the parable. May you make angels envious of you, if envy can ever pierce their holy minds. You can submit for Christ's sake to sufferings which it is not possible for seraphim or cherubim to endure.

--C. H. Spurgeon

Sophie, the scrub woman, was a Christian. One of the gentlemen in the large building where she worked said to her, "Say, Sophie, I understand that you are a Christian." "Yes, sir, I am a child of the King," was her immediate reply. "Oh! So you must be a princess, since God is your King." "I sure am." "Well, if God is your Father, and you are a princess and a child of the King, do you not think that it is beneath your dignity to be found here in New York City scrubbing these dirty steps?" Not being daunted Sophie replied, "There is no humiliation whatsoever. You see, I am not scrubbing these steps for my boss, Mr. Brown. I am scrubbing them for Jesus Christ, my Savior!"