

Picking the Wrong King

John 19:15

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!" NKJV

We opened our service this morning reading the account of what we call the triumphal entry when Jesus purposefully rode a donkey into Jerusalem. In doing this He fulfilled a prophecy of Zechariah.

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

It is Matthew's gospel that demonstrates that Jesus was born to be the King of the Jews, sitting on the ancient throne of David. But there are many other references to Jesus being king, not only of the Jews but of all. Nave's Topical Bible has over a dozen pages of Scripture concerning Jesus and His kingdom.

Now I know that we are not too much into kings but let me tell you that a king is much more efficient form of government than a democracy. And when Jesus is King, it will be a righteous kingdom, and Chicago will take on a whole new form, politically.

So it has been understood that in the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus was offering Himself as King to the Jews. And they seemed to be accepting Him. But when we come to the passage about a week later we find that it is Pilate that is offering Jesus to the Jews as king.

But now they will not have Him. They will choose to have a robber released to them rather than Jesus. They will choose Caesar rather than Jesus.

Many people choose people or things other than Jesus to rule over them. But how does that work for them?

But as always choices have consequences. And for the Jews these consequences would be dire.

A mere 40 years later the Romans would come and destroy the city of Jerusalem, tear down its walls and expel the Jews from Palestine.

So this morning I want to think of you and me, America, choosing a king. For regardless of what we say we have already chose one.

- I. The benefits and blessings of choosing Jesus.
 - A. He is righteous and just.
 1. Even though many think of Jesus as being harsh and overly strict, it is simply because of our sinful nature.
 2. We want righteousness and justice from everyone else around us.

3. And when Jesus returns, and establishes his kingdom, there will be righteousness and justice in this old world.
- B. He is merciful and gracious.
1. Just think a king who is willing to die for his people and not the other way around.
 - a. Jesus did not expect his disciples to die for Him, rather he would die so that they might live.
 - b. So it is with us, Jesus died for us so that he might give us mercy rather than judgment.
 - c. Ro 8:1 (NKJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
 2. God's purpose is to make his mature
 - a. Eph 4:11-16 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — NKJV
- II. The government is not God and makes a lousy king.
- A. Even the best governments are controlled by sinful man.
 1. That is not to say that all men or as sinful as they could be.
 2. Nor is it to say that all men or as sinful as any other man.
 - B. And the problem with democracies is that there all are a lot of wheels to grease.
 1. In the beginning of our country people served in government, but today politicians rule rather than serve.
 - C. I think democracies eventually shake out to the lowest common denominator.
 1. The lower elements of society seem to wear out the better ones.
 - D. The call of the Revolution was we have no king but Jesus.
 1. Today it is we have no king but self.

2. We will make all the rules.
 3. We will decide what is right and wrong.
 4. And we will silence anyone who disagrees with us.
 5. Our founders left us a government designed for a Christian people, for people who were honest, hard working, and willing to sacrifice for others.
 6. A government cannot survive where 51% can vote to take the possessions of the 49% and give it to themselves.
- E. I think you get my drift, those who are looking to the government to be their savior will find that it will be its destroyer.
- III. Many people choose self as King.
- A. This is how most people see their lives.
 1. They live their lives without a thought of God or the claims of Jesus upon them.
 2. Even for many Christians there is no thought of what God wants me to do with my life.
 3. This essentially makes you your own king.
 - B. The trouble is we make lousy kings.
 1. It is not within man to direct his own steps, the Bible says.
 2. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, that's the result of our kingship.
- IV. Others unwittingly choose the devil as their king.
- A. 2 Tim 2:25-26 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. NKJV
 - B. Why would anyone choose the devil?
 1. Because he is such a good salesman.
 2. Because they cannot see far enough down the road.
 3. Because they enjoy the pleasures of sin for the present.
- V. Whom will you choose to be king?
- A. Just as surely as the Jews had to answer the question of Pilate, "shall I crucify your king," so we must answer the question also.

- B. In this life Jesus does not force is kingship upon us.
- C. He is looking for willing subjects who will give up self, surrender all and follow Him.
1. Mark 10:17-22

17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"

18 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"

20 And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."

21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. NKJV
- D. What is it that you are hanging on to that will not let you choose Jesus as your king today?