

10 April 2022

A King Comes to Jerusalem – Mark 11:1-25

The King's Triumphal Entry

Mk 11 ⁷ And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields.

Question 1: What was the practical impact of spreading leafy branches and cloaks on the road? What symbolism might that have?

Mk 11 ⁹ And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

Question 2: What was the significance of this shouting from the crowd? What are they hoping for and what are they acknowledging?

The significance of Prophecy:

Zechariah 9 ⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Question 3: What is the significance of "your king" in this passage? What biblical references sustain your understanding?

Question 4: How did Jesus' choices lead to the fulfilment of this prophecy?

Zechariah 9 ¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Question 5: In what ways could this passage be read to suggest that the Messiah would be a warrior who would rid the Israelites of Roman tyranny?

Question 6: If you now review this passage knowing what we do of Jesus, what did Zechariah tell us were the important features of the Messiah's new covenant?

Question 7: What does this mean for us living under the new covenant today?

The allegory of the cursed fig tree (Mk 11:12-14, 20-21) is also a commentary on the spiritual health and worship of Israel.

Question 8: Why did the old ways of worship need to be cut off? Why was it not appropriating for Jesus to choose to restore worship as God had originally intended?

The New Kingdom *Jesus is setting in place is about having understanding and relationship with God. Jesus identifies one of the important elements in the nature of our prayer life (vv 22-25):*

Mk 11 ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Question 9: What does Jesus say needs to be in place for prayer to be answered like this?

Question 10: How should we respond as we now prepare for Easter?

Lord, we long to worship you with hearts aligned to you. Help us to understand so we can avoid being like the bystanders of that first Palm Sunday and gain the insight of the disciples to be effective in prayer and faithful in taking your kingdom to others. In the name of this King, Amen.