

The King We Didn't Expect

Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11 | Isaiah 50:4-9 | Philippians 2:5-11

Big Idea

Jesus is the promised King, but He comes in a way that challenges our assumptions about power, victory, and salvation.

Sermon Outline

Introduction: A King Arrives

Palm Sunday is a celebration, but it is also a surprise.

Jesus enters Jerusalem:

- publicly
- intentionally
- prophetically

He rides a **donkey**, not as a random detail, but as a **fulfillment of prophecy** and a revelation of the kind of King He is.

Driving Question

Do I want the real Jesus... or just the version of Jesus that fits what I want Him to be?

1. Jesus Really Is the Promised King

Matthew 21:1-5

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is:

- not accidental
- not symbolic only
- not merely sentimental

It is a **messianic moment**.

Key truths:

- Jesus is fulfilling **Zechariah 9:9**
- He is publicly revealing Himself as King
- The donkey points not only to humility, but also to **peaceful kingship**

Main takeaway:

Palm Sunday is not Jesus lowering expectations. It is Jesus fulfilling Scripture.

2. Jesus Comes as a Different Kind of King

Matthew 21:6-9 | Philipians 2:5-8

The crowd says true things about Jesus:

- “Hosanna”
- “Son of David”

But they still misunderstand the kind of salvation He brings.

Key truths:

- “Hosanna” means “**Save us**”
- The crowd wants a king who wins by force
- Jesus comes to reign through:
 - humility
 - service
 - obedience
 - self-giving love

Main takeaway:

Jesus is not less King because He comes lowly, He is showing us what true kingship looks like.

3. Jesus Knows Exactly Where This Week Is Going

Isaiah 50:4-9

Palm Sunday is not just a parade. It is the beginning of the road to the cross.

Key truths:

- Jesus is not surprised by what lies ahead
- He walks toward suffering willingly
- He has “set His face like flint”

Main takeaway:

The King riding into Jerusalem is already on His way to lay down His life.

4. The Real Question Is Whether We Will Receive Jesus as He Really Is

Matthew 21:10-11 | Philipians 2:9-11

The city asks:

“Who is this?”

That is still the central question of Palm Sunday.

Key truths:

- The crowd’s answer is not wrong, but it is incomplete
- Holy Week reveals that Jesus is:
 - the promised King
 - the suffering servant
 - the obedient Son
 - the crucified Lord
 - the exalted Christ

Main takeaway:

Many want Jesus to save them. Far fewer want Him to define salvation on His terms.

Holy Week Invitation

Palm Sunday is not the end of the story. It is the doorway into Holy Week.

This week, we are invited to:

- slow down
- pay attention

- walk with Jesus
- prepare our hearts for Good Friday and Easter

Don't rush from palms to Easter. Walk with the King.

Closing Truth

If Jesus were the kind of king we usually expect, He might have crushed His enemies.

Instead...He came:

- in humility
- in obedience
- in peace
- in love
- all the way to the cross

And because He did, He is exactly the kind of King we desperately need.