



Blessed be the King!
Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022

Text: Luke 19:28-40 (Emphasis on verses 37-38)

- Many are generally familiar with these verses. The truth they convey constitutes the start of “Holy” or “Passion” Week on many church calendars around the world. Indeed, **we celebrate our LORD’s Triumphal Entry on this Palm Sunday**, wherein many in Jerusalem believed at the time that Jesus was the Messiah and their long awaited King!
- Now, most of those folks would go on to disbelieve and betray Him later on in the week, but at least for a moment, they shouted:

Luke 19:38 (KJV) *Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.*

- Matthew writes:
Matthew 21:8-9 (KJV) *And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. 9 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.*
- The word for “King” in our Text is *basileus* in Greek. It means, “a sovereign.” It comes from a root word that implies “the foundation of power.” Although used for men, it is very rightly used here in relation to Christ, who is “*Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.*” (Eph 1:21).
- **He is "the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."** (Rev 22:16) He is Rock upon which our lives and all creation is built (Matthew 7:24; 1 Cor 10:4), the true foundation (1 Cor 3:11), and the Chief Corner Stone! (Eph 2:20)
- Isaiah cried out:
Isaiah 28:16 (KJV) *Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.*
- Peter proclaimed:
1 Peter 2:6-9 (KJV) *Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner. 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*
- Now Mark tells us...
Mark 11:8 (KJV) *And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way.*
- And John says:

John 12:12-13 (KJV) On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, **13** Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

- Both the laying down of the clothes and the spreading out of palm branches were ways ancient peoples celebrated royalty. Again, this meant that, at least momentarily, the people knew a King was among them. Their view may have been more nationalistic rather than eternal (a political kingdom rather than a spiritual one), but they at least shouted:

Mark 11:10 (KJV) Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

Big Questions and some Recent Thoughts:

1. Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as THE KING? As YOUR King? As the King of all Kings? Do you have a sense of His majesty and royalty? Do you reverence Him and fear Him as such? Can you shout from your innermost being, “*Blessed (to speak well of or to celebrate) be the King?*”
2. This point can hardly be emphasized enough. Fear and reverence of the LORD is so central to the Christian life, one will certainly struggle manifesting the fruit of true discipleship without it. In a Sept 2021 message called “[Shining like the Sun](#)” where we focused on the glory of Christ, we said:
 - The loss of holy reverence...the fear of the LORD...the ability to see God “high and lifted up” and be totally undone in His Presence is a leading cause of all we see around us. In an age of “feelings idolatry,” God has become small while our desires and dreams loom large.
 - Making matters worse, often in our lives, fear trumps faith, worry surpasses worship, and the temporary triumphs over a sense of the transcendent. The cares of this world and the riches of this life choke the Word, and inhibit our ability to sell all we have, give it to the poor, and go and follow Jesus.
 - I believe our joy, service, desire to worship and personal holiness is often tied to our view of God. The lower that worldview is, the more lax our service to Him and the more our flesh reigns over us. The higher that view is (the more God-ward our focus), the more passionate and humble disciples we become.
 - Being reminded of the Glory of the God we serve will prayerfully spark such a higher view in us. May it help us see again that God is greater than our problems and ourselves! May the LORD be held in increased honor by us, and may His glory fill our lives and cause great contentment and sweeter praise!
3. Let us remember that He is our King! Here are three elements of His Kingship to consider:

The Kingship of Jesus

1. The Eternality of Jesus

- **John 1:1-3 (KJV)** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** The same was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- **John 17:5 (KJV)** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

- Our King is eternal. He took on a human body at the Incarnation in order to be our perfect High Priest, but He is from everlasting to everlasting!

2. The Majesty of Jesus

- Peter, when speaking about the authority of the apostolic epistles, wrote:

2 Peter 1:16 (KJV) *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*



- The word *majesty* means “superbness, that is, *glory* or *splendor*: - magnificence, majesty, mighty power.” (Strong’s)
- Webster defines it as “Greatness of appearance; dignity; grandeur; dignity of aspect or manner; the quality or state of a person or thing which inspires awe or reverence in the beholder; applied with peculiar propriety to God and his works.” (Webster 1828 Dictionary)
- Our Savior is altogether Kingly. He is majestic. When He was transfigured before Peter, James, and John on the mountain (Matt 17:1-13), again, He shone like the Sun!

3. The Power and Authority of Jesus

- Scripture says of our God:

Psalms 93:1-2 (KJV) *The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved. 2 Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting.*

- Jesus is LORD (1 Cor 12:3); God the Son is LORD of all! (Acts 10:36)

Matthew 28:18 (KJV) *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

- He said, I am “he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.” He is LORD over the church!

Colossians 1:15-18 (KJV) *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

- He is our King and Judge!

John 5:22-23 (KJV) *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: 23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*

John 5:27 (KJV) *And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*

What kind of eternally, gloriously majestic, and omnipotent King enters the Holy City on a donkey? One who is humble. One who loves us...who deeply cares about us. One who was willing to lay His holy life down for us that we might be justified before a Holy God!

His Subjects' Response

Given all the He is, all that He's done, all that He will do, how should we respond to Him? How should citizens and subjects of the Kingdom of God treat the King of Kings?

1. Be faithful to Him!

- **Luke 9:62 (KJV)** *And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*
- Let us resolve to not look back! Let us determine to have no King but Christ! Remember the testimony of the early church:

Revelation 2:12-13 (KJV) *And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; 13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.*

Revelation 3:7-8 (KJV) *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; 8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.*

2. Worship Him!

- In our Text, we read of the Pharisees attempting to stop the worship of Jesus. They believed the words being uttered in praise were to be for God alone. In that, they were right! They just did not recognize the day of their visitation! God the Son was among them! Jesus' reply is instructive for us: "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." (V40)
- May no rock cry out for us! Let us worship the risen King like those He has redeemed!

Revelation 5:8-9 (KJV) *And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

Revelation 5:14 (KJV) *And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.*

Revelation 7:9-12 (KJV) *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12*

Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

3. Fear Him!

- Remember, “The fear of the Lord is the love, reverence, awe and passion that prompt the believer to obey God. It is that state of mental and emotional sanctification where the believer sees God as holy and a reverent trembling results. It is the necessary characteristic of Christian discipleship where total obedience to the commands of Christ is seen as a loving response to a loving God.”
- Just look at what is possible with the Fear of God is present!

Acts 9:31 (KJV) *Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.*

4. Proclaim Him!

- **1 Corinthians 1:21-24 (KJV)** *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*
- Let us preach Christ! Let us proclaim His Gospel with love and boldness! Let us herald the Second Coming of the King! And let us not get discouraged in the preaching...
- **1 Corinthians 1:18 (KJV)** *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

5. Obey Him!

- **1 Timothy 6:14-15 (KJV)** *That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: 15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords...*
- Oh let us remember the warning of Jesus and James to those who both claim Him with words and defame Him with their actions:

Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV) *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

James 1:21-22 (KJV) *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

6. Wait for Him!

- As King, Christ gets to decide. He answers prayer “Yes, no, and wait.” “Wait” may be the hardest of the answers!
- Yet He is always working for the good of His children. Let us learn to wait upon the LORD! (Ps 27:14; Isa 40:13) Let us learn to wait, to endure, to persevere, to have patience...

Romans 5:3-5 (KJV) And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; **4** And patience, experience; and experience, hope: **5** And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Revelation 14:12 (KJV) Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (KJV) Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

7. Trust Him!

- **Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. **6** In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
- **Psalms 37:3-5 (KJV)** Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. **4** Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. **5** Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.
- Our walk with Jesus begins with repentance and belief. (Mk 1:15; Rom 10:9) Let us keep believing Him for all things! As the writer of Hebrews said,

Hebrews 10:23-25 (KJV) Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) **24** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: **25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

- James said,
James 1:5-7 (KJV) If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. **6** But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. **7** For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Final Praise!

Blessed be our King! Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised. (Ps 113:2-3) The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation. (2 Sam 22:47) Blessed be the LORD, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. (Ps 28:6) Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. (Ps 68:19) Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight. (Ps 144:1) Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me. (Ps 66:20) Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. (Lk 19:38)

Amen!