



April 13, 2025

Josh Parrish

Matthew 21:1-11

Introduction

On Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem - a pivotal moment when Christ revealed himself as the long-awaited Messiah prophesied throughout Scripture. In this sermon, Pastor Joshua explores how Jesus fulfilled ancient prophecies dating back to Jacob's blessing of Judah in Genesis, revealing himself as the true King who brings genuine peace. As we enter Holy Week, we're challenged to examine what or who we allow to rule our lives, and whether we've truly bent our knees to Christ's kingship.

Key Texts: Matthew 21:1-11; Genesis 49:8-12; Zechariah 9:9-10; Isaiah 9:6-7

Icebreaker

When have you felt the weight of impossibly high expectations? How did that burden affect your sense of peace and wellbeing?

Discussion Questions

1. In the sermon, Josh described how the people of Israel had lived under foreign powers for nearly 800 years. How might this history have shaped their understanding of what the Messiah would do? In what ways do our own experiences and cultural context shape our expectations of who Jesus should be and what He should do in our lives?
2. **Read Genesis 49:8-12 together.** This prophecy about Judah includes imagery of a ruler with a scepter and specifically mentions tethering a donkey and colt to a vine. How does seeing this ancient connection enhance your understanding of Jesus' deliberate choice to ride two donkeys into Jerusalem? What statement was Jesus making through this symbolic action?

3. The people shouted "Hosanna!" meaning "Save now!" as Jesus entered Jerusalem. What did salvation mean to them in that moment? How is that different from or similar to what we typically mean when we talk about salvation today?
 4. Josh stated that "the path to peace is through bended knees." What does this phrase mean to you personally? What areas of your life might still need to come under Christ's kingship for you to experience His peace?
 5. **Read Zechariah 9:9-10 together.** This prophecy describes the coming king as both "righteous and victorious" yet also "lowly and riding on a donkey." How does this paradox reflect Jesus' character and mission? How might embracing this paradox change how we approach our own challenges and victories?
 6. The sermon highlighted three ways people pursue peace: making stuff king, making people king, or making Jesus king. Where do you see yourself or others most tempted to seek peace through possessions or people's approval? What practical steps can we take to reorient our search for peace toward Christ's kingship?
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Key Takeaways

- Jesus' triumphal entry was the fulfillment of prophecies dating back thousands of years to Jacob's blessing of Judah.
 - The world offers many false paths to peace through achievement, possessions, and approval, but these only lead to slavery.
 - True peace comes only through surrender to Christ's kingship.
 - The cry of "Hosanna" (Save now!) reveals humanity's deep need for salvation and peace that only Jesus can provide.
 - Jesus came not just to overthrow earthly powers but to establish an eternal kingdom of peace.
 - Our expectations of Jesus often reflect our own desires rather than His true mission and purpose.
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Notes