

Who Is This King Jesus?

“This Is The Way” Series – Part 12

Connect question: What is, in your memory, the greatest celebration that you ever experienced? Why is it the greatest?

Introduction: There is a television documentary produced by a photographer who was allowed to follow Presidents Reagan and Obama during their administrations and make a historic photographic record of their daily lives. The photographs show us very different aspects of each of these men's lives as they worked in the Oval Office, consoled families hurt by tragedy, how they relaxed, and how they spent time with their own family. One thing becomes clear...one photo cannot be used to describe one's life.

Today, we are going to look at “photographs” of Jesus as He entered the city of Jerusalem to present Himself as King, and of His Kingdom. The “photographs” are not found on film, but instead the pictures are the written records of that event as described by the gospel writers. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John do not contradict themselves, yet God used their different descriptions to give us a more complete picture of King Jesus. The verses below are just a small glimpse of what these men wanted us to know about this Jesus.

Read: Selections of the Gospel Account of Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Matt 21:1 As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead.

Matt 21:2 “Go into the village over there,” he said. “As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me.”

Matt 21:3 If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will immediately let you take them.”

Matt 21:4 This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said,

Matt 21:5 “Tell the people of Jerusalem, ‘Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey’s colt.’”

-Why did the King of the universe present Himself as a commoner riding on a donkey's colt?

-Using only this one “photo” above of King Jesus, how would you describe this King to others.

Mark11:7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it, and he sat on it.

Mark 11:8 Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields.

Mark 11:9 Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, “Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!

Mark11:10 Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David! Praise God in highest heaven!”

-We have another picture/record of the King's entry from Mark's gospel. Describe what you believe the people of Jerusalem were feeling about this Man.

-What was correct about their emotions and expectations?

-What do you learn about King Jesus in Mark's description?

Luke 19:41 But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep.

Luke 19:42 "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes.

Luke 19:43 Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side.

Luke 19:44 They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognize it when God visited you."

-The Apostle John adds to our collage of "photos" by reporting an event that occurred on the way into Jerusalem. Why was Jesus crying on this great day of celebration?

-How do you feel about the King of Kings shedding tears for those who would soon cry, "Crucify Him!"?

-How does this event add to your picture of King Jesus?

John 12:17 Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it.

John 12:18 That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign.

John 12:19 Then the Pharisees said to each other, "There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!"

-John wanted us to understand why some were gathered for the parade and celebration. How do you think the story of the resurrection of Lazarus may have affected their view of Jesus?

-Could any purpose be served by Jesus calling a dead man back to life right before He is to be put to death?

-Why did the Pharisees give up on stopping the crowd from following Jesus?

-What can you and I do that would cause others "to go after HIM"?

Homework:

Once a man told a blind person that he wished the blind person could see what he could see. The blind person said, "I can...if you describe it to me". Imagine your task is to describe King Jesus to a blind person...a spiritually blind person. Write down your description.