

New King in the Temple Matthew 21: 1-11

This chapter is describing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem as the New King entering the temple. These verses are focused much on Palm Sunday vs 1-11 is the arrival of the King.

In vs 1-3 we see the plan of Jesus

vs 4-5 the prophecy be fulfilled

vs 6 the participation of disciples as they obeyed

vs 7-8 the disciples and the crowd gave

vs 9-11 they praised.

vs 3 The Lord has need "And if anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away". Technically as God, Jesus doesn't need anything. He is self-sufficient but Lord has chosen to need things. The Lord needed the donkey in order to fulfill Prophecy. God has chosen to need us. Jesus the Messiah, the King of Kings, was made to feel welcome especially by his disciples. The ways they made Him feel welcome is an example how true Christians should make him feel welcome today

While Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem the crowd shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David, Blessed is who comes in the name of the Lord". Jesus entered the temple and drove all the traders and money changers and he declares "My house will be called a house of prayer but you are making it a den of robbers ". Jesus cleansed the temple. If we give Jesus the prominence in our lives, Jesus will cleanse our temples too. (1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness). Each believer is a temple of God. The Holy Spirit dwells inside of us. (1 Cor. 6:19-20). God's purpose for us is that we are a house of prayer. There should be a worship center inside each of us. We are the ones who are to praise and to pray. We should always do God's will.

Jesus arrived as Israel's King. Even though he was rejected, he acted in a royal way. We see a righteous king in Jesus as we can read that the temple was cleansed of those who used religion as a means of crooked personal gains. We see a compassionate king in Jesus as he used his authority in healing the blind man and others with diseases. The rejoicing of Jesus the king as children sang his praise in the fulfillment of the scripture. The religious leaders rejected Jesus as their king.

In this Passion Week the most important question "who is Jesus"? Possible answers are "Behold, your KING is coming to you. Another is "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of Lord" Or another answer to the question: "This is Prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee. Let us start with this. Jesus of Nazareth is recognized as a "Prophet" which means he is sent by God. Jesus has been teaching the true meaning of Word of God, healing the sick, casting out demons, multiplying loaves and fish and even raising the dead.

The crowds are shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" The Son of David is the reference of King David of Israel who rules around 1000 BC. King David was told that one of his sons would reign after him in a way that would be greater than

any king ever. This son of David, a descendant would have an everlasting kingdom and an usher in an age of blessing unsurpassed in the annals of history. And so this was prophecy of Messiah, a Christ and anointed KING to come. Thus the crowds of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus with cries of "Hosanna to the son of David". They are acclaiming Jesus Christ as promised Messiah to come. "Come Jesus take up your throne. Save us from our enemies! Reign over as king, and bring us those glorious blessings".

Jesus took our sins to the cross suffering rejection of his own people suffering injustice from a weak ruler. But in doing so he fulfilled the plan and purpose of God, namely, to redeem the world and to save sinners like you and me. This is how Jesus will reign as a king, overcoming sin and death and the grave. The Kingdom of blessing he comes to bring in a kingdom of forgiveness, life and eternal salvation. He is our king today and our king forever. Let us welcome him in the Passion Week and grow in our faith in Christ.