



“King” is not a word that sets well with us. It could have something to do with a war we fought to cast off a king and crown more than 200 years ago. Or it could be something far more deeply ingrained in our being.

We don't mind giving up a little autonomy here and there, but nobody wants to fall under the complete and final rule of anyone else. When it comes to kings, we are far more comfortable being our own king, than placing ourselves under the absolute rule of anyone else—including God.

In Mark 11:1-11, Jesus rides into Jerusalem in clear fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy, “See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

Jesus not only reveals himself as Israel's true king, but also willingly accepts the praise and adulation of a crowd that was all too willing to crown him king.

While we are not much on kings, Jesus is exactly the king we need. We will prosper far more under his gentle hand than we ever will under the tyranny of self-rule.

TWO DISCIPLES AND A DONKEY (vv. 1-6)

1. Mark expends far more ink writing about the procurement of a colt for Jesus' ride into Jerusalem, than he does on the ride itself. What do you think Mark is trying to tell us about Jesus?
2. Jesus' procurement of a colt was a deliberate move on his part to align his life and ministry with the prophecy of Zachariah. “See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey (Zechariah 9:9).”
 - a. What does this prophecy tell us about the kind of king Jesus will be?
 - b. What in Zechariah's prophecy indicates that Jesus is exactly the kind of kings we need?

THE ARRIVAL OF THE KING (vv. 7-10)

1. On previous occasions when anyone identified Jesus as Messiah, he commanded them to remain silent. Why do you think Jesus allowed the blind man along the way to refer to him as the “Son of David (10:47, 48),” and this crowd to proclaim him as king?

2. When Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a colt, he is clearly proclaiming himself as king. It is evident from their response that the gesture was not lost on the crowd.
 - a. What in their words and actions indicate that they are welcoming Jesus as king?
 - b. What did they fail to understand about what it meant for Jesus to be their king?
 - c. How should we, in word and action, welcome Jesus as king?

A QUIET MOMENT IN THE TEMPLE (v. 11)

1. Many people came into the temple as awe-struck tourists—admiring its beauty and grandeur; others came as penitent pilgrims to offer prayer and sacrifice. How does Jesus enter the temple?
2. In the coming days Jesus will clear the vendors from the court of the Gentiles, and when he breathes his final breath on the cross, the temple curtain will be torn into from top to bottom.
 - a. How do Jesus' actions ultimately impact and redefine the temple?
 - b. How do they reveal the kind of king he will be?
 - c. How do they reveal he is exactly the kind of king we need?