

From Death to Life (3):
The Journey of Redemption
The Humble King (Matthew 21:1-11)

Introduction: *Jesus is a King unlike any other.* Our text today is known as, “Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem.” (Yes, we are a week early). *Palm Sunday sets the stage for Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice on the cross which we will study next week.* We see in our text, Jesus came as a King, but not in the way the world expected. His humility demonstrates the nature of His kingdom.

My prayer for us today, is that we will embrace Jesus’ humility and follow Jesus’ example of servanthood in your daily life.

Following Jesus’ example of humility makes us look most like Jesus and gives us the best opportunities to share Jesus.

I. The triumphal entry: (Matthew 21:1-11)

A. This was a public demonstration

1. Passover brought nearly 2 million people to Jerusalem.
2. Jesus intentionally planned this public display of His identity.
3. Previously, Jesus avoided public declarations, but now He fulfilled prophecy.
 - **Prophecy fulfilled:** *Zechariah 9:9* – “See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey.”
 - This event forced the Jewish leaders to act, leading to Jesus’ crucifixion. (*John 12:19*)
 - The people expected a political Messiah, not a suffering servant.

B. The Donkey: A Symbol of Peace

- Kings rode donkeys to signal peace, warhorses for battle.
- Jesus chose a donkey, fulfilling prophecy and showing His kingdom is built on peace. (*Zechariah 9:9*)

C. The Palm branches and "Hosanna"

- The people laid palm branches—a symbol of victory and nationalism.
- "Hosanna" means "Save us now!" but they wanted political freedom, not spiritual salvation. (*Psalms 118:25-26*)
- Days later, the same crowd would cry, "Crucify Him!" (*Matthew 27:22-23*)

Do we trust Jesus when He doesn’t meet our expectations?

II. The nature of Christ’s kingdom:

Earthly kingdoms seek power and wealth; Jesus’ kingdom is built on humility and service.

A. Jesus’ Leadership Style

- "Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant." (*Matthew 20:26*)
- Jesus washed His disciples’ feet. (*John 13:12-17*)

B. The Cross before the crown

- Jesus’ entry signaled the road to the cross, not earthly victory.
- "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." (*Mark 10:45*)
- *Philippians 2:8* – "He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"

How can we lead like Jesus in our workplaces, homes, and community?

III. Reflecting Christ’s humility:

- **In Relationships:** Treat others with kindness. (*Philippians 2:3-4*)
- **In Workplaces & Communities:** Serve instead of seeking status.
- **In Churches:** Be willing to do unnoticed tasks.

A man once complained about his church not doing enough. The pastor handed him a mop and said, "Here’s a great place to start."

IV. Serving with humility:

This week, commit to one act of humble service:

- Help someone in need without seeking recognition.
- Apologize first in a conflict.
- Perform an act of kindness in secret.

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." — C.S. Lewis

How will you serve with humility this week?

Conclusion: The true King - Jesus didn’t come as expected, but He came as needed.

- His kingdom is about serving, loving, and giving.
- Thank God for Jesus’ humility and servant leadership.
- Ask for strength to serve with humility.
- Commit to following Jesus, even when His plans differ from our expectations.

We never look more like Jesus than when we serve with humility. We never have a better chance to share Jesus than when we model His humility.