

Mark 11:1-11 – The coming of the king

Now Jesus and his disciples arrived at Jerusalem. This was not an ordinary visit. Jesus had now come to suffer, die and rise again and to bring in his kingdom. Jerusalem was the city of God. Now, as God's chosen king, Jesus arrived to claim his kingdom. But he did not arrive in the way that men do today – with displays of worldly riches and power. It was not that kind of kingdom. He arrived humbly, as one who had come to carry our sins and die for them. So, this passage teaches us about Jesus the king.

1) The king who is in control

Jesus knew everything that would happen to him. He was in perfect control of all things. He knew where to find the animal he wanted. He knew what the owner would say. He knew the owner would allow the animal to go.

When Jesus went to the cross, he was not a helpless victim. No – everything happened exactly as he had planned it (Acts 2:23, 4:27-28). There are many things we do not know – but our Master, Jesus, knows perfectly. Therefore we must trust him – and we can trust him, because he is in perfect control.

2) The king whom they did not expect

By riding into Jerusalem (which was then the city of God) on a donkey, Jesus was showing the people that he was their king. It was a testimony. The prophets had said that the Messiah would come like this (Zechariah 9:9).

When David appointed his son, Solomon, to be king, he placed him on a donkey (1 Kings 1:32-34). Now that David's greater son, the Messiah, had come, he rode into Jerusalem in the same way. This was a witness to the people that he had come to be their King and Saviour.

But his humble coming was not what many people expected. Many expected a great warrior to defeat other nations, riding a war-horse. But in fact he came to die for the sins of the nations, bringing them peace. Many people did not want this kind of king. They did not see their sins, or want to repent. Do you?

3) The king whose people worship him

The leaders of Israel in Jerusalem complained and rejected Jesus (Luke 19:39-40). But the people who had travelled to Jerusalem for the Passover worshipped him. They proclaimed that he was the Messiah, the Son of David, the one who came in the Lord's name (Psalm 118:26). Jesus received their praise. Probably their faith was weak – we know that the twelve apostles did not really understand that Jesus must die and rise for their sins, and that his kingdom would be humble. Yet Jesus received their worship, and loved them. We do not ask “do you have great faith and great understanding?”, but “do you have faith at all? Do you truly love Jesus?” Is Jesus your king, or not?