

## What Kind of King?

(John 12:12-19)

### Palm Sunday

- A week before Jesus' resurrection
  - About 5 days before His crucifixion
- One of the few stories of Jesus found in all 4 Gospel accounts
  - Significant as a declaration of His role as Messiah

### The Expectations (v. 12-13)

- John sets the Jesus entrance to Jerusalem against the backdrop of several events
  - Shortly after He has raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11)
  - The day after Mary, Lazarus' sister, anointed Jesus (John 12:1-8)
  - As pilgrims gathered for the Passover
- Word had spread of Jesus' teachings and miracles
  - And the crowds heard He was about to come into Jerusalem
  - So, they gathered to see Him on the outskirts of town
- The crowd took palm branches & their coats (Luke 19:36) and stretched them along the road into the city for Jesus to enter on
  - The palm had become a nationalistic symbol for Israel tied to its liberation by the Messiah
  - Thus, the crowd's cries: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"
    - Hosanna: "Save us now!"
- They were declaring that they saw Jesus as the coming Messianic King (see 2 Sam. 7:12-14a)
  - The whole scene is one of welcoming a victorious king (see 1 Thess. 4:17)

### What Kind of King? (v. 14-16)

- Jesus was aware of the crowd's ideas
  - So, He had a donkey's colt brought to ride into the city
  - This was to tell the crowd what kind of king He was
    - One bringing salvation through righteousness not war (Zec. 9:9)

### The Response (v. 17-19)

- The crowds knew of Jesus' sign of raising Lazarus
  - But had not necessarily understood it
    - He was claiming power over death
    - They simply wanted power over Rome
- Jesus was not the King they wanted
  - So, when the Pharisees and religious leaders plotted to have Him killed, the crowds quickly turned on Him (John 19:15)
- But Jesus was the King they (and we) need

- NOT one whose power and authority rests in political halls
- But the One who is seated in the heavens
  - Who has power over sin and death

### **So What?**

- What kind of king do we want Jesus to be?
  - Is the King of heaven, who saves us from sin and death, the King of our hearts?

**Meditation Verse:** *Zechariah 9:9*