

The Gospel of John: The Cryptic King

John 12:12-36

The Triumphal Entry (v. 12-19)

- Crowds of pilgrims came out to greet Jesus
 - His notoriety had grown due to the raising of Lazarus (v. 17-18)
 - Palm branches had become a symbol of national pride for the Jews, starting with the Maccabean revolt (165 BC)
 - The crowd thought Jesus was coming to depose Rome and become Israel's king
- Jesus had arranged to ride a donkey into town
 - This was a symbol associated with a conquering king who comes to bring peace
 - The disciple only understood after Jesus' death & resurrection what this all meant (Zech. 9:9)

The Hour Has Come (v. 20-28a)

- Greeks want to meet Jesus
 - God-fearing Gentiles who were partial converts to Judaism
 - The nations are beginning to seek out Jesus
- Jesus cryptically replies for Him to be glorified, He must die
 - Just like a seed “dies” so that it may produce more wheat, so Jesus will die so that He may provide life to those who put their faith in Him
- Putting our faith in Jesus includes losing our lives as well
 - Laying aside our desires & motivations to seek God's will for our lives
 - Serving God & others like Jesus
 - To follow Jesus, we must live like Jesus
- Despite His impending death, Jesus does not seek to turn away
 - He knows this is His mission
 - He desires to glorify His Father

Dethroning the Tyrant Prince (v. 28b-33)

- God the Father answers Jesus, proclaiming:
 - Through Jesus' incarnation & ministry, His Father's name has been glorified
 - And will be glorified through His death & resurrection as well
- Jesus proclaims that the time of judgment for this world has come
 - Not a judgment of humanity, which comes when Christ returns
 - But a judgment of this world's ruler who will be dethroned
 - “The prince of this world”: Satan
- Jesus has come to claim this world's throne by defeating the enemies of sin, death, & Satan
 - He will do so through His sacrificial death on the Cross
 - This display of sacrificial love will draw all nations to Him

The Eternal Kingdom (v. 34-36)

- The crowd is confused at Jesus' claim that He is the Messiah and that He will die
 - The Messianic kingdom is eternal
 - But it is not currently physical on the earth
- He encourages faith in Him
 - Darkness: His death/absence & the ethical state of those who refuse to believe in Him

○Light: His presence & the ethical state of those who trust in Him (1 John 1:7)

So What?

- Do we recognize Jesus as king of the world and our lives?
- Do our lives reflect this?

Meditation Verse: 1 John 1:7

Next Week: John 12:37-50