

WARM-UP

- What pictures or words come to your mind when you hear the word “king”?
- Are you the type to plan ahead or act spontaneously? Tell us about a time you did the opposite.
- Where is one place you’re always sure you’ll feel welcome? Why?

WORD *³⁷As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”* **LUKE 19:37,38**

On the day that we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, accompanied by the shouted praises and rejoicing of His disciples. They honored Him as a King entering His kingdom. This triumphal entry into Jerusalem was an important moment in the Bible where Jesus publicly made it known that He was the promised Messiah. For the Jews, this “Messianic promise” was one they had been holding on to—the promise of a new hope, a Savior who would rescue them and restore the kingdom of Israel to them. Here are three truths about Jesus, our King, and what these mean to us today.

1 | The King was promised.

And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. LUKE 19:35

(Read also **ZECHARIAH 9:9**.)

Over 500 years before this happened, the king of Jerusalem had been prophesied to arrive *mounted on a donkey*. This was the promise that the Jews had held on to. Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was the outward fulfillment of this promise. The Jews recognized it and rejoiced with His disciples. We too can claim that the promises of God will be fulfilled—whether in our lifetime or not. How do these promises bring you hope? What's one promise you are claiming?

2 | The King would bring peace to His kingdom.

³⁷. . . *the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸saying, "**Blessed is the King** who comes in the name of the Lord! **Peace** in heaven and glory in the highest!" LUKE 19:37,38*

A kingdom takes on the character of its king. Jesus was prophesied to bring salvation and peace to Israel. Although the Jews understood this differently, expecting a military and political conqueror, Jesus had indeed come to bring salvation—from eternal death—and peace. Peace, the word *shalom*, meant wholeness and well-being, not the absence of war. As followers of God, we are part of His kingdom. We can experience and enjoy God's salvation and peace because His kingdom reflects the nature of the King. How have you experienced God's peace?

3 | The King deserves praise and glory.

³⁹And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." **LUKE 19:39,40**

The very nature of God is to be praised. When His disciples praised and glorified Him as He entered Jerusalem, some Pharisees asked Jesus to stop them. But He told them the *very stones would cry out* if the humans stopped glorifying Him. Whether we praise Him or not, the King will receive praise. His essence is so glorious that to truly look upon Him would blind us. What are some examples of looking upon the glory of God (Exodus 33:20; Isaiah 6:5)?

APPLICATION

- What are the promises that God is showing you at this time? Claim these promises over your life.
- What is one area (in your words, thoughts, or actions) where you need God's peace? Submit this to God and declare wholeness over it.
- Ask God for specific people from your family or community that need to experience His salvation and peace. Take time today to pray for these people.

