

**Jesus the King (Mk 11:1-11)**  
*Sunday Morning – June 30, 2019*  
*Sleater-Kinney Road Baptist Church, Olympia, WA*

**INTRODUCTION:**

- **Read Mk 11:1-3:**
  - o Show slides about journey and Jerusalem
- **Read 11:4-6**
  - o Show slides

**TEXT**

**1. The crowd said Jesus was the King**

*And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!” (Mk 11:7-10)*

- **What on earth is happening here?**
  - o We see the words on the page (or on our screens 😊), **but what’s actually going on?**
- This probably isn’t a large crowd; you shouldn’t think of several thousand people chanting and singing
  - o It’s a mixed crowd of disciples and pilgrims caught up in the moment<sup>1</sup>
  - o It wasn’t planned; it was impromptu
- **What does this all mean?**

**a. Psalm 118**

- One of a handful of songs sung at Passover (Ps 113-118)
  - o They’re songs of praise, thanksgiving, and deliverance
  - o This is why they’re fitting for Passover; the memorial for when God rescued His people from slavery and led them to the Promised Land

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<sup>1</sup> Luke 19:37-38 says the disciples were the one’s who were singing. Mark and Matthew 21:8-9 suggest it was the pilgrims. Luke was likely lumping the entire crowd in as “disciples,” while the other evangelists delineated more carefully.

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- Book of Hebrews adapts this theme from physical to spiritual realities
- These songs were adapted for ritual use at the Passover; especially Ps 118:<sup>2</sup>
  - (1) vv. 1-4: People rejoice at God's grace
    - **“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!” (Ps 118:1)**
  - (2) vv. 5-18: unnamed man (the King) explains how God rescued him
    - **“Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free,” (Ps 118:5)**
      - Call for surrender to God
    - **“It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes,” (Ps 118:8-9)**
      - **What is your life founded on?**
        - Job = gone
        - Money = gone
        - Looks = gone
        - Sex = gone
        - Friends = gone
        - Community = gone
        - Body = gone
        - Intellect = gone
        - Lord = there forever!
    - **“The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous,” (Ps 118:14-15)**
      - Mark of salvation = all-encompassing love for God (cf. Deut 6:5; Mk 12:28-32)
      - Praise will inevitably follow; just like love notes followed your love for your spouse

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<sup>2</sup> I'm aware the liturgy depicted in Psalm 118 was not one that happened in Israel. I'm also aware the Israelites rarely observed the Passover during the Old Covenant period, but began it anew after the return from exile. For a good discussion of how the observance had evolved by Jesus' day, particularly the use of the Hallel psalms, see Alfred Edersheim, *The Temple: Its Ministry and Services* (reprint; Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 162-179.

The scene depicted from Psalm 118 is best seen as an ideal; a poetic picture of what a Passover celebration ought to look like because of what it means. It doesn't matter that it never happened this way; it gets across the ethos of the event. It teaches the reader.

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- **“I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death,” (Ps 118:17-18)**
  - Discipline is the mark of love
  - Mr. Gaston example (“they spank you because they love you!”)
  - God conforms you to Him, not the other way around!
- All this underscores the most basic point of the Passover; **“God saved us from slavery, so let’s give Him the glory!”**
  - **(3)** vv. 19-21: The King arrives at the temple gates leading into the courtyard, and formally confesses his faith and gratitude:
    - **“Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation,” (Ps 118:19-20)**
  - **(4)** vv. 22-27: all Israel rejoices as the King marches into the temple, to formally begin the Passover celebrations
    - **“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes,” (Ps 118:22-23).**
      - In context, this refers to God’s covenant people; the community He’s saved and rescued
      - Christ applied it to Himself
      - It is only the Lord’s doing that anyone is saved
    - **“Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success!” (Ps 118:25)**
      - v.25a is what “Hosanna!” means
      - **Who is supposed to be the Lord’s agent in providing this success, this rescue, this deliverance and salvation?**
        - It’s the King!
    - **“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord,” (Ps 118:26)**
      - **Who is entering the temple in the name of the Lord, as His ambassador and representative?**
        - It’s the King!

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- The people know this, and chant and sing a blessing to be upon their ruler

### - **What's the point?**

- (1) This psalm is sung to celebrate the King leading a procession to kick off the Passover celebration
- (2) It's a song that celebrates God's grace and mercy, which God's people know is channeled through the person of a good, holy and godly King
- (3) **Re-read vv.25-26**

### b. **Mark 11:9-10**

### - **What's this have to do with our passage?**

- (1) Jesus has been telling everyone He's the Messianic King
- (2) He's approaching Jerusalem for the Passover
- (3) And the sum of His message is that:
  - just like the Passover remembers how God rescued His chosen people from **physical slavery**,
  - Jesus is the new and better Moses who's come to rescue them from **spiritual slavery**
- (4) **So, what do you think it means when the people start chanting and singing Ps 118 to Jesus!?**
  - He's the King!

### - Think about what they say:

- (1) **"Hosanna!"**
  - Save us, Lord – we beg you!
  - The guy who's coming into Jerusalem is the One who's going to save them!
- (2) **"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"**
  - Jesus is the one who has come in God's name
  - **"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father," (Jn 14:9)**
  - **"No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known," (Jn 1:18).**
  - He's the One who perfectly reveals God to us
  - Jesus is God in the flesh; who made Himself human to suffer, die, and rise again for our sake

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- **(3) “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”**
  - **They knew** that the Law, Writings and Prophets all spoke about a King who would come
  - **They knew** that King would come to establish God’s kingdom
  - **They knew** that King would be descended from David
  - And, on that Sunday afternoon in Jerusalem, **they knew** that King was Jesus of Nazareth
- This leads us right back to where we started; the crowd said Jesus was the King!

### **2. The crowd lied**

- This was an ecstatic crowd
  - **And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out,” (Lk 19:39-40).**
    - But, five days later, most of these same people were screaming for Jesus to be killed (cf. Jn 18-19) – **what happened?**
- Jesus knew this would happen; Luke tells us what He said after He got through the crowd and approached the city gates:
  - **And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation,” (Lk 19:41-44)**
  - **What happened?**
    - **(1)** they rejected Him;
    - **(2)** they were fair-weather friends
    - **(3)** they were the kind of people who split the second it started to be inconvenient to be a Christ-follower

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- (4) they heard about the “things that make for peace,” but they only wanted Jesus as long as His message didn’t make their lives inconvenient
- Mark tells us how the day ended:
  - **And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve (Mk 11:11)**
    - **Where’d everybody go!?**

### **3. Who is your King?**

- Consider this:
  - (1) Is your Jesus a Cosmic Genie; a divine Robin Williams who pops out of your Bible to grant you three wishes?
  - (2) Is your Jesus a Divine Butler, who’s there whenever you ring your little handbell or activate the “Jesus App” on your phone?
- Most people would never admit to that because we all know its “wrong,”
  - **but, if we’re honest with ourselves,**
  - **how many of our thoughts, attitudes and actions add up to it anyway?**
- Think very carefully:
  - (1) Do you admit Jesus is **in charge**?
  - (2) Do you admit that your job is to **live according to His rules**, because you love Him?
  - (3) Do you want to **worship** Him?
  - (4) Do you want to **praise** Him?
  - (5) Do you want to **do what He says**?
  - (6) Do you want **Him to change you**, or is it more the other way around?
  - (7) What are you living for?
    - Job, money, sex, status, reputation – all of it’s transitory
    - **What, exactly, is your purpose in life and why does your life matter?**
    - **What are you living for?**
  - (8) Are you a slave for Christ, or something much less than that?
  - (9) Is Jesus your **King**, your **Lord** and your **God**,
    - or is He more like a sentimental trinket;

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- more like that old high school yearbook that's hanging around in your attic that you can't quite bring yourself to throw away;
- the one that serves no real purpose, but sure makes you feel all warm and fuzzy when you think about it!?
- (10) Are you a fair-weather friend, like so many people in that crowd that Sunday afternoon, so long ago?
- (11) Will you stand by Christ when it becomes **inconvenient**, when it becomes **hard**, when it begins to **cost you something**?
- (12) Will you stand by Christ when it means He's going to change you to look more like Him, and **not the other way around**?
- If you claim to be a Christian:
  - (1) it means Jesus is your Lord, your Savior and your King
  - (2) it means you're gone from being a terrorist in God's universe, to an adopted son or daughter in His family
  - (3) it means you've told Him you're sorry for the immoral and ungodly things you think about and do
  - (4) it means you believe He's been perfect for you, died for you, and rose again from the dead for you – to blaze a trail that leads His people through the twisted wilderness of this world to the Promised Land of eternity
  - (5) it means you're part of a community; a card-carrying member of the New Covenant
  - (6) it means that, because He's your King, you **owe and give Him** your allegiance
- If you claim to be a Christian:
  - (1) and you know God's word says one thing,
  - (2) but you choose to do the opposite,
  - (3) **then He isn't your God – you are!**
- If you claim to be a Christian:
  - (1) and you know Jesus says to do one thing,
  - (2) but you choose to not listen to Him
  - (3) **then He isn't your King – you are!**
- As you consider this passage, make sure you can sing with the psalmist:
  - **Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever (Ps 118:1)!**

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- **Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free (Ps 118:5)**
  - **You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever (Ps 118:28-29).**
- If Jesus is your King, you owe Him your allegiance

***Blessing (1 Cor 16:23-24): The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen***