

## Series – Jesus

### # 3 Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

John 12:12-16

***John 12: 12-16 The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”***

***14Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: 15“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”***

***16At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.” (NIV)***

## PRAYER

**Introduction:** There was a biography of Winston Churchill, where the author gave nearly equal attention to each part of his life: childhood, struggles as a student, military college, years as a war correspondent, service in World War I, Member of Parliament, the war years, and after he left office. In this author’s telling, no one section of Churchill’s life stood out.

In the Bible, there are four “biographies” of Jesus, written by four different people with four different perspectives, and each one of them mostly ignore the first 30 years of Jesus’ life.

Instead, they all focus on Jesus’ last three years. And they save about 35 percent of their biographies for His final week. The people who knew Jesus felt you could not understand him unless you understand the last week in His life.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all tell how Jesus enters the royal city of Jerusalem as king. They give us shocking comparisons and clashing contrasts.

In Matthew's account (Matthew 21), as soon as Jesus enters Jerusalem, he clears out the money changers in the Temple. Nobody saw that coming. People expected him to clear out the Romans, not Jewish temple workers.

In Mark's account (Mark 11), the donkey takes up half the Palm Sunday story.

Luke (in Luke 19) contrasts the reactions to Jesus by all the people.

John (chapter 12) connects Jesus' entry to his raising of Lazarus, "A Preview of Coming Attractions. "

**Palm Sunday is the doorway into Jesus' final week; or what we would call Holy Week, and the Passion of the Christ. Without Jesus' arrival to Jerusalem on this day, we do not have a clear pathway to Good Friday or Resurrection Sunday.**

**SERIES RECAP: We're in a series of messages about Jesus. Two weeks ago, we looked at Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever; last week we saw Jesus, the Bread of Life. Today my message is: Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.**

## **I. Palm Sunday reminds us that God Keeps His Word.**

God is a promise-keeping God. He is a prophecy-completing God. The power in biblical prophecy is that God has already fulfilled, continues to fulfill, or will in the future fulfill every single promise/prophecy that he has made.

### **Two examples – a donkey and a lamb.**

#### **A. The Donkey.**

The fact that Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt of a donkey is not just by chance.

***Zech 9:9, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."***

#### **SPEAKING OF DONKEYS**

Donkeys are very strong and intelligent, and a donkey is stronger than a horse of the same size. Donkeys have an incredible memory - they can recognize areas and

other donkeys they were with up to 25 years ago. A donkey will not do something it considers to be unsafe.

Donkeys are not easily startled (unlike horses) and have a keen sense of curiosity. Donkeys have a reputation for stubbornness, but this is due to their highly developed sense of self preservation. It is difficult to force or frighten a donkey into doing something it sees as contrary to its own best interest or safety.

Donkeys hold the distinction in the Bible as being one of the earliest and most frequently mentioned animals in the text. We find most of the Old Testament's great historical events include donkeys.

Abraham got up early in the morning to saddle his donkey, a small act, yet one of obedience to the Lord to offer Isaac up to God.

Jacob sent twenty female donkeys and ten donkey foals as a portion of his large and costly gift to appease his brother Esau.

The sons of Jacob traveled to Egypt with donkeys to purchase grain during a great famine.

Moses, in his return to Egypt to be Lord's representative to cause Pharaoh to release the Israelites from slavery, placed his wife and children on a donkey to cross the desert.

Abigail, a virtuous woman, made haste to prepare food for David and his army, who were preparing to fight her wicked husband, Nabal. Abigail instructed that a caravan of donkeys be loaded with 200 loaves of bread, 2 bottles of wine, 5 carcasses of prepared sheep meat, 5 measures of parched corn, 100 clusters of raisins and 200 cakes of figs. Abigail herself made haste as she rode a donkey out to meet David and his army. It is through her humble actions that she was able to soften the warrior David's heart.

In the bible we read about two notable donkeys, the first being the donkey of Balaam (who talked) and the second being the donkey of Jesus.

This donkey was distinctly chosen by the Lord to be used in an act of sacred service. In the Old Testament any animal that was used in service to the Lord

could not have ever been broken or used in human service. The animal had been set apart by his owner and Jesus had arranged for it to be used.

The Jews were looking for a mighty conqueror to come riding in on a mighty stallion of war, but Jesus came in riding upon the donkey of peace. In the Old Testament riding upon a donkey was a show of ***royalty, power, and peace***.

Jesus did not come to set us free from the bondage of the Romans; he came to set men free from the bondage of Sin. **This donkey was the symbol of Christ being not only as the “King of Kings” but also the “Prince of Peace.”**

This is just one of the many prophecies that we see in the Old Testament concerning Jesus. In fact, there are some 332 prophecies in the OT which are fulfilled in Christ. The mathematical odds of all those prophecies being fulfilled by one man are one in 84 to the 123rd power. That is 84 with 123 zeros after it.

## **B. The Lamb**

On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem at exactly the time the Passover lambs were chosen.

During the original Passover in Exodus chapter 12, God instructed each family in Egypt to get a lamb and keep it close-by for the week. Then on Passover, to kill that lamb, catch its blood, and apply the lamb's blood to the doorway at the entrance of their home.

We know that for Passover to be celebrated on Saturday, the people had to pick a lamb the Sunday before Passover (Palm Sunday) so they could keep that lamb with them the days as detailed in Exodus 12.

God designed Passover to become a component in the annual life of a Jew. Each year, the idea of an innocent lamb, chosen as a substitute, and slain in place of each person was meant to be a picture of the coming Lamb of God.

So, the Palm Sunday event of Christ's final week, was also exactly the day that Passover observing Jews in Jerusalem had to pick their Passover lamb.

So, Jesus came as The Lamb of God, passing by the Sheep Gate where all the Passover Lambs were being washed and prepared by thousands of families, on that Palm Sunday. **Jesus is indeed the Messiah foretold of in the OT.**

## **II. Jesus Triumphant entry on Palm Sunday gives us the Courage to NOT be Afraid of the past, present or future.**

While the Jews were waiting for Jesus' first coming, we are waiting for his second coming. He won't be riding on a donkey the second time around. Rather, he will be descending from the clouds with all power and "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth (Phil. 2:10)." Since Jesus is King, we need not fear even death itself. So, we can trust him.

### **Now I want you to think about three names: Jesus-Christ-Lord.**

**1. His first name is Jesus.** That name literally means "Jehovah saves." Jesus is his human name. As Jesus, he is our mediator. He stands between sinful man and holy God. As sinless man he takes the hand of God; and as saving God, He takes the hand of man and joins the two together. ***"For there is one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."*** (1 Tim. 2:5)

**2. His middle name is Christ.** The name Christ literally means "Anointed One." Christ is His holy name. The Jesus of the New Testament is the Messiah of the Old Testament. You see, Jesus is not only the Gentile Savior, but He is also the Jewish Messiah.

**3. His last name, Lord, is the focus of my message.** This is the name which is above every name. As Lord He is our Master.

The name Lord has several meanings. It could mean Sovereign, it can mean Master, it can mean Ruler, it can mean King. They are all so rich because they describe the way we relate to Jesus, and the way He relates to us.

He is Sovereign, we are subordinate.

He is the Master, we are slaves.

He is the Ruler; we are the servants.

He is the King; we are the subjects.

**Let me make something clear. Jesus does not want a place in your life, He does not want prominence in your life, He wants preeminence in your life.**

When you crown Him King, you crown Him as Lord. A great preacher once said: **"Let a man get right on the lordship of Christ and he is right all down the line on every issue. It means that the flagship of the fleet is the lordship of Christ, and if that ship leads all the other ships church membership, fellowship, discipleship, stewardship, worship, will follow the flagship!"**

**The question before you today is not is Jesus Christ Lord. That has been established whether you believe it or not. The question is: Is He your Lord? If He is, understand exactly what that means.**

## **I. HIS LORDSHIP DEFINES OUR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP**

Let me ask you the following questions: Why did Jesus die? Why was Jesus buried? Why was Jesus raised from the dead? Why is He alive and seated at the right hand of God? The answer usually given to that is: ***"To save us from our sins."***

That is only partially true. Listen to this from Romans 14:5-9: ***"One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.***

***7For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. 8If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.***

***9For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living."*** (NIV)

Jesus died to claim you as Lord. In fact, that is exactly the way we are to preach Jesus. ***"For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."*** (2 Cor. 4:5)

If you are saved today, I want you to understand something. When God saved you, you made your greatest decision; you made your best and last decision. Because the moment you come to Jesus Christ as Lord, He is to make all the decisions from then on. You are just to carry them out.

When the Saul met Jesus on the Damascus Road, he asked him the two greatest questions anybody could ever ask. The first question he asked was before he got saved; the second question he asked was after he got saved.

The first question was: "Who are you, Lord?" His second question was: "Lord, what do you want me to do?" (Acts 9:5-6)

Jesus saves us as Lord, and we are to serve Him as Lord. Rom. 10:9 says, ***'If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. '***

There seems to be a controversy about whether you have to accept Jesus Christ as Lord to be saved. I don't know what the controversy is all about. First, why would anybody want to be saved if they did not want to accept Christ as Lord? Secondly, that is the only kind of salvation there is. Jesus is not Savior or Lord. He is Savior and Lord. In fact, He is Savior because He is Lord.

If you are sitting there saying to yourself right now, "Well, I have accepted Jesus as my Savior, but I've never received Him as my Lord," I've got news for you. You cannot treat Jesus like a buffet where you say, "I would like some grace and mercy and a Savior, but I don't care for any Lordship." You receive Him as Savior and Lord, or you will have Him as neither.

Just so you know, you cannot make Jesus Lord. God has already established that. Peter preaching on the day of Pentecost said, ***"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."*** (Acts 2:36, NIV)

In John 13:13 Jesus made a very revealing statement to his disciples. He said, ***"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am."*** Now notice that He was not Lord because the disciples called Him Lord. They called Him Lord because He is Lord.

Jesus is called Savior in the New Testament 24 times; He is called Lord 433 times. If you're looking just for eternal fire insurance, don't come to Jesus because He's not an insurance agent, He is Lord.

If you understand that, that means you understand that He will be over, and you will under; He will be above, you will be beneath; He will command, you will consent; He will demand, you will deliver; He will give the orders, you will carry them out.

## HIS LORDSHIP DEFINES OUR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP

### II. HIS LORDSHIP DEFINES OUR PERSONAL OWNERSHIP

Now the verse that really says it all is Acts 10:36, " ***'You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. '*** "

Now you can't make it any plainer than that. If He is your Lord, He is the Lord of all of you. He is Lord of all that you are. He is Lord of all that you have.

S. M. Lockridge, the great black preacher, put it this way:

**He didn't have to put his signature on the corner of the sunrise: He's the owner! He didn't have to put a laundry mark on the lapel of the meadow: He's the owner! He didn't have to carve his initials on the side of a mountain: He's the owner! He didn't have to put his brand on the cattle on a thousand hills: He's the owner! He didn't have to put a copyright on the songs He gave the birds to sing: He is the owner!**

He is Lord of all you are and all that you have. He is Lord of nature, He is the Lord of creation, He is the Lord of time, He is the Lord of eternity, He is the Lord of life, He is the Lord of death, He is the Lord of humanity, He is the Lord of demons, He is



the Lord of yesterday, He is the Lord of today, He is the Lord of tomorrow; everything bounded by time and space, and everything beyond time and space is under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

## HIS LORDSHIP DESCRIBES OUR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP

## HIS LORDSHIP DEFINES OUR PERSONAL OWNERSHIP

### III. HIS LORDSHIP DEMANDS OUR FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

If you believe that Jesus Christ is Lord of all, and you're going to live as if He is Lord of all, then He must be Lord of your clock, He must be Lord of your calendar, and He must be Lord of your checkbook. Now I'm going to give you four statements that I want you to think about.

- 1) God owns everything. ". . .the world is Mine, and all its fullness." (Psalm 50:12)
- 2) Everything you have, God gave to you. ***"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."*** (James 1:17)
- 3) You are to be a good steward of everything God has given you. ***"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*** (1 Peter 4:10)
- 4) You will give an account for what God has given you. (Parable of Talents)

## HIS LORDSHIP DESCRIBES OUR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP

## HIS LORDSHIP DEFINES OUR PERSONAL OWNERSHIP

## HIS LORDSHIP DEMANDS OUR FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

### IV. HIS LORDSHIP DECIDES OUR ETERNAL FELLOWSHIP

***"Wherefore also God highly exalted him and gave unto him the name which is above every name; 10that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things on earth and things under the earth, 11and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."***

(Philippians 2:9-11, ASV)

The word confess means "to proclaim publicly and agree with." Now that does not mean that everyone will do it joyfully, and willfully, and gladly. You see, there will be two groups of people who confess that Jesus Christ is Lord," there will be those who are just continuing to do what they did on earth, and there will be those being forced to do what they denied on earth.

But either way, the Lord Jesus is going to hear every member of humanity confess that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

**Illustration:** Yogi Berra, the famous catcher for the New York Yankees, was out on a road trip one night and he got hungry for pizza. He called a local pizza parlor and ordered a medium pepperoni. When he walked up to the counter to pick it up, the man said, "Yogi, when you called, I forgot to ask you how you wanted me to slice your pizza. Do you want it cut into six slices or twelve?" Yogi thought about it and said, "You better make it six, I don't think I can eat twelve." **No matter how you slice it, Jesus is Lord, and He deserves all your life.**

So, the question is not: "Is He Lord?" That has been settled for all eternity. The question is: **"Is He your Lord?" Have you surrendered everything to Him?**

**Closing:** I was reading about a guy in college who had a professor who had a rather unusual way of giving examinations. At the completion of the course, he would go in for the final examination and he would always give you one examination question.

The unusual thing about that one question is that when you gave the answer to the question it required you to include everything that the professor had taught throughout the whole semester. Only one question but the answer was a complete summarization of everything that had been taught.

Jesus has been teaching His disciples. They have seen the miracles which Jesus performed. They have observed His behavior. Now, it's examination time. In Matthew 16 Jesus carries His disciples into Caesarea Philippi. It is above the Sea of Galilee, and just below the snow-covered mountains of Mount Herman.

***He asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"***

**14**They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

**15** "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

**16**Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

**17**Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. **18**And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Heaven and hell are wrapped up in that question. The answer to that question will determine your personal salvation. And in your answer to that question hinges your personal destiny.

It is the question that occurs repeatedly in every age. There is no neutrality about this question. It is the *perpetual question*, but it is also -

### ***The PERSONAL Question.***

Jesus brings us to the point where we have to make a decision, personally about Him. You can't be neutral with Jesus. There are those who say Jesus Christ is my Savior. I have bowed my knee to Him, He is my Lord, I love Him, He's everything the Bible says, I crown Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords in my heart.

But there are others who have not done that. He comes to you, and He knocks at your heart's door and says, "who do you say that I am?"

Notice Simon Peter's answer to this question. This is what you call a -

### ***PERSONAL Confession.***

Verse 16 says "and Simon Peter answered.". There are times in the Gospels when we see Simon Peter at his worst, but this is Simon Peter's finest hour.

Simon Peter said, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

The Old Testament had predicted the coming of the Messiah, Anointed One. In the Old Testament there are three offices that were anointed. They would anoint a prophet, a priest and a king.

So, when Simon Peter said, you are the Christ, he is saying you are the anointed one. You are the one that all the Old Testament scriptures had predicted would come. He is saying you are the saving seed of Genesis. He is saying you are the sacrifice of Exodus. He is saying you are the Lamb of Leviticus. You are everything that the Old Testament said the Messiah would be.

So, in that personal confession, Simon Peter just puts Jesus on the throne. He doesn't stop there. He says Jesus not only are you the Christ, but you are the Son of the Living God. He not only puts Jesus on the throne. He is confessing the deity of Jesus. He is saying, "Jesus, You are the Son of the Living God."

When a person is willing to confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, that person puts themselves in a position of blessing. In Ephesians 1:3 the bible says, ***"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies."***

Jesus said, ***"flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto you, but my father which is in heaven."*** It's NOT by human speculation, but by divine revelation. Jesus said in John 6:44 - ***"No man comes unto me except my father which hath sent me draw him."*** Ephesians 2 the Bible says, ***"For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God."***

Coming to Christ is a radical life change. You cannot approach God on your own terms; you must come through Jesus. You cannot come to Him in your own time; No man comes to Jesus unless the Father draws them. When you come to Him you must accept His claims; Jesus is the Son of God, the sacrifice for sin, the Lord and Savior. **Is Jesus the Lord of your life?**