

DO YOU KNOW THE KING?

Palm Sunday, John 12:

March 28, 2021

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Blessed is the King of Israel!"

John 12:13 (pilgrims singing from Psalm 118:25-26)

A Tale of Two Crowds

⁹ Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹ for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him.

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem

John 12:9-13

- 1) Both crowds are looking for Messiah: one who raised Lazarus, one who would defeat the Romans
- 2) Jesus rejects the expectations of BOTH crowds

The last Sunday of Lent or Easter lite?

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They 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!"

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written,

¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

John 12:12-15 (crowds shout from Psalm 118; John quotes from Zechariah 9:9)

- 1) Palm branches reflect BOTH joy in God's deliverance and the error of the crowd's expectations
- 2) Jesus really is the King, but a different kind of King with a different kind of kingdom
- 3) Jesus' entry is "untriumphal" – unless seen through the shadow of the cross

Disciples, crowds and Pharisees: Response to the King

¹⁶ *At 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 they had done these things to him.*

¹⁷ *Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word.* ¹⁸ *Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet him.* ¹⁹ *So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"*

John 12:16-19

1) Disciples:

2) Crowds:

3) Pharisees:

4) Me:

Do you know him? (with thanks to S. M. Lockridge)

1) The King on a donkey is so much more than the crowds can imagine – or are willing to accept

2) Watch out for Triumphalism. We will have to wait for Revelation 19 for the Triumphal Entry!
Key point: If Jesus was who the crowds thought he was, the cross would not have happened.

3) We can still celebrate

Jesus' decision to enter Jerusalem knowing the cross is one week away

Confidence in Jesus' Second Advent as we remember Palm Sunday

Resources for further studies of Jesus' Triumphal Entry in John's gospel

The Bible Project team has great stuff on John at <https://open.life.church/items/179216-john-poster-jpg>

Spurgeon has a "Who is the King?" sermon at <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-triumphal-entry-into-jerusalem/#flipbook/>

J. C. Ryle's commentary at <https://www.monergism.com/lord-are-you-going-wash-my-feet-john-136-15>

Deffinbaugh's sermon at <https://bible.org/seriespage/28-un-triumphal-entry-john-129-19>

Jennifer Holberg's insightful blog post on the CRCNA Network, March 24, 2021, at <https://network.crcna.org/worship/different-hosanna>

I have really appreciated D. A. Carson's commentary in the Pillar New Testament Commentary series (Eerdmans, 1991) and Earl Palmer's *The Intimate Gospel* (Word Books, 1978)

The two resources on our union with Christ are John Murray's *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (Eerdmans, 1955) and Rankin Wilbourne's *Union with Christ* (David C. Cook, 2016). I also recommend Marcus Peter's short study at <https://www.crossway.org/articles/10-things-you-should-know-about-union-with-christ/>

S. M. Lockridge's "That's My King" at <https://thatsmyking.wordpress.com/words/>

Leon Morris has a short essay on the atonement in John's gospel at http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted_Hildebrandt/NTeSources/NTArticles/CTR-NT/Morris-JohnsAtonement-CTR.pdf

My old professor Carl Laney has an essay on the agricultural perspective of the vine and branches at <https://www.monergism.com/analogy-vine>



