The Triumphal Entry! Jesus arriving in Jerusalem, seated on a donkey. Cheers emerge from the huge crowd: “Hosanna!”--“Lord save us!” shouted the estimated 2.5 million gathered for Passover. Prophesy is filled—long-expected, highly anticipated. The Kingdom is publicly declared. These crowds’ shouts of “Hail Him!’ turn in only five days to “Nail Him”—from “Blessed is He” to “Crucify Him.” And Jesus’ response to the cries of “Save us!” (“Hosanna!”) is simply, “I will.” And suffering, dying, and rising again for them. The lost are found. Salvation has come. The cross and the resurrection are His response. But what kind of king rides a donkey? What kind of king weeps? What kind of king wears a crown of thorns? I will tell you: A king of compassion, caring, courage, and completion. Family, the triumphal entry is our King coming *for* us and *to* us (\*Zechariah 9:9). Our King is very personal, very involved. He is the triumphant King! He is so much more than a moral teacher or good prophet but the eternal, all powerful, redeeming, enthroned Son of the Living God.

The triumphal entry is the model for how we are to receive the Son of God. We are to lay our coats down—that is, lay ourselves down for him. Luke records, “They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it”(19:35). Jesus is a grown man, and the donkey is a colt. Surely, Jesus could have sat on it Himself! The verse speaks to His enthronement. It symbolizes our choice to put Jesus in His rightful place in our lives, enthroned in our hearts as Savior and King. But much like the people in Jerusalem that day, many of us want the king *we* want. We want a king that, like Burger King, let’s us have it our way. But that can’t be! We first receive the King we need by recognizing that His crown doesn’t fit us: We are His subjects. When Christ becomes King of our lives, it’s no longer about “having it our way.” Kings by nature and definition have authority. They RULE!

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\*Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,

righteous and victorious,

lowly and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

A King reigns. The Passover pilgrims that crowded the streets of Jerusalem cried out for rescue. They wanted rescue from outside influence and oppression. Jesus begins His rescue *inside* by cleansing the Temple (\*Luke 19:45-48). He consecrates and sanctifies what is His for His purpose. The turning over of the sellers and money lenders’ tables in the Temple is about the nature of worship—worship posture, worship preparation that should be directed to a deserving King. (And the requirement for purity of heart in preparation for worship is featured by the record in Matthew of the children who earlier in his ministry come to Jesus there at the temple [\*\*Matthew 21:14-17].) The people along Jesus’ route to the temple wanted Jesus to fix what was on the outside. He begins, however, with fixing what was on the inside, desiring to transform them and us by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. The triumphal entry establishes His authority, fulfilled prophecy, and revealed His heart. His willing entry into Jerusalem shows us how far He will go to save us. We want our God to fix and redeem so many things. What if we just started with us?

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\* Luke 19:45-48

45 When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. 46 “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be a house of prayer’; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

47 Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. 48 Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

\*\*Matthew 21:14-17

14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

16 “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him.

“Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read,

“‘From the lips of children and infants

you, Lord, have called forth your praise’?”

17 And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

Lord, save us! Sanctify us! Consecrate us! This is what I pray:

Lord, heal my heart—cleanse this temple. Take your proper place as not only Savior but also as King. You have authority to do that, my God. In Your compassion and mercy, forgive me! Save me! Heal my anxiety, my insecurity; rescue me from my sin by the regenerating power of Your Holy Spirit. I lay down my worthless crown at Your feet. You be King of my life. Transform me.

Family, listen. You and I need to maintain a proper view of our King, which The Word offers us:

Isaiah 53:3-7

3 He was despised and rejected by mankind,

a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

4 Surely, he took up our pain

and bore our suffering,

yet we considered him punished by God,

stricken by him and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,

he was crushed for our iniquities;

the punishment that brought us peace was on him,

and by his wounds we are healed.

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,

each of us has turned to our own way;

and the Lord has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted,

yet he did not open his mouth;

he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,

and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,

so he did not open his mouth.

Revelation 19:13, 16

13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. . . .

16 On his robe and on his thigh, he has this name written:

King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Christ as King of our lives means, very simply and completely, that He is Lord of our lives. The triumphal entry is our King coming to us and for us. As we enter Holy Week, we each need to meditate, to think, to pray about what our King has done for each of us. He is our personal, compassionate, caring, courageous, complete King. Each of us needs to allow Him to purify, consecrate, and sanctify us as a matter of our obedience (\*1 Corinthians 6:19-20). You and I need to enthrone Him as King of our lives. If any one of you has not ever surrendered to Him as Savior, please cry out today, “Hosanna!” “Lord, Save!” And Church family, each of you guard your view of Jesus. Hail Him as King! The Cross and the Resurrection are His response to your cry for help. You and I He has bought for a great price. How do we respond to Him? Don’t allow the world to change your view of your King. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. You are King, and we are your subjects. Today, You, Our King, have come to us!

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\*1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

Passages in Support of this sermon:

Psalm 118:22-29

22 The stone the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

23 the Lord has done this,

and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 The Lord has done it this very day;

let us rejoice today and be glad.

25 Lord, save us!

Lord, grant us success!

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord, we bless you.

27 The Lord is God,

and he has made his light shine on us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession

up to the horns of the altar.

28 You are my God, and I will praise you;

you are my God, and I will exalt you.

29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his love endures forever.

Luke 19:28-41

28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 30 “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

34 They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it.