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# Sermon Notes

April 5, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## The King is Coming John 12:9-19

### The Kingdom of God

- ❖ *The kingdom of God is at hand* (Mark 1:14-15)
  - Jesus preached frequently about the arrival of God's kingdom and the kind of lifestyle that kingdom living leads to
  - Jesus demonstrated what kingdom power can do through His miracles
- ❖ On Palm Sunday, Jesus "unmasks" the fact that He is the King in the kingdom of God
- ❖ John frames the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with references to the raising of Lazarus
  - John tells us that as a result of this astonishing miracle, many of the Jews who were present put their faith in Jesus
  - this frustrates the local religious leaders, and they begin hatching a plot to kill Jesus
  - about a week later (6 days before the Passover and just one day before the events of Palm Sunday) Jesus comes to have dinner in Bethany at the home of Lazarus and his sisters

- ❖ *His disciples did not understand these things at first* (John 12:16)
  - what's not to understand?
  - is there more going on here than meets the eye?
  - we need to "line up" with the disciples and admit there are things in even the most familiar Bible accounts that we fail to understand
- ❖ John bookends his account of the positive, enthusiastic response of the crowd with the negative reaction of the chief priests and the Pharisees (*cf.* vv. 10-11, 19)
  - why does John set it up like this? what does John want us to see?
  - a cautionary tale!
    - the ones who know the most, "miss the boat" when it comes to recognizing their Messiah among them
    - this is a major theme of John's gospel (*cf.* John 1:11)
- ❖ For millennia, God's people knew a king was coming (Genesis 49:10, 2 Samuel 7:12-13, Luke 1:31-33)
  - Zechariah 9:9 pictures the day this king arrives
  - but why DOES Jesus ride a donkey?
    - Jesus is making a point!
    - "I am the **KING** that all the promises and prophets have been pointing toward!"

- the cheering crowd “gets this” (Psalm 118:25-26)
- the chief priests and Pharisees do not “get this”
- ❖ John is urging us not to miss the point

### The King Is Coming

- ❖ The King has come and the King is coming
  - King Jesus breaks the mold of what most people expect a king to be and say and do
  - King Jesus comes to die and give His life as a ransom for many
  - King Jesus does everything I need done for me but which I could never do for myself
- ❖ King Jesus crushes the power of Satan and reigns as king in our salvation
  - the resurrection and the life
  - *everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die* (John 11:25-26)
- ❖ The kingship of Jesus changes the way I view the world
- ❖ The kingship of Jesus controls how I live in the world
- ❖ In Philippians 2, Paul looks forward to the coming day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father
  - Thomas after the resurrection, “My Lord AND my God”
  - Jesus is Sovereign AND Savior

- ❖ If you are a child of the King, you will live as a faithful subject within His kingdom
  - those who are subjects of King Jesus have no ongoing right to live as they please
  - the behavior of King Jesus’ subjects will be marked by obedience to the King
    - in business practices
    - among relationships
    - within the church of which King Jesus is head
- ❖ An approachable King!
  - the King of kings and Lord of lords is also a friend and brother
  - Jesus invites you to come to Him with all of your fears, failures, stresses, disappointment, losses, needs and loved ones
- ❖ Don’t miss this King: greet Him, welcome Him, bow humbly before Him

### Personal Reflection

1. In what ways does the Kingship of Jesus change the way you view the world?
2. In what ways does the Kingship of Jesus change the way you live in the world?
3. Are there areas in your life (either thoughts or actions) in which you are not living as an obedient subject of King Jesus? What will you do in order to change that?