

## **Jesus Is My King!**

### **John 12:12-16**

John 12:12-16 The people were crazy with excitement. They were anticipating something amazing—a new king. We know they were anticipating a new king because of a few things. First, palm branches were used to hail a new king, celebrate victory, and honor royalty. Second, was the shouting of “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” The Greek word, *Hosanna* means “save us, liberate us, and give us favor.” Its Hebraic origin, *Yasha*, means to “liberate us” or “save us from battle.” *Yasha* was used about 200 times in the Old Testament. Here, *the crowd calls on God to bring a king to save His people.*

The crowd almost got this right, but they misunderstood what King Jesus would do. Even the disciples were not sure. The crowd thought Jesus came to liberate them from Rome, but Jesus came to liberate them from God’s wrath—from the penalty of sin and death. They also misunderstood what kind of king Jesus was. He was not a king who would strike fear in the peoples’ hearts. No, Jesus was the “King of Kings.” Revelation 19:16 Jesus was a King of humility, peace, and compassion.

### **Jesus Is a Humble King**

Jesus did not enter Jerusalem in a carriage or on a warhorse. He came into Jerusalem on a donkey. This was a sign of His humility. Jesus valued humility over every other characteristic someone can display.

Luke 22:27 Jesus chose to serve His disciples, vacating His rightful place at the head of the table. Humility is not commonly associated with strength in the world's view, but that doesn't mean it's a weakness. Our culture’s emphasis on pride, self-honor, and fame leads to the misconception of humility as a weakness. The root of pride, self-honor, and seeking fame is a lack of truly knowing who you are. Jesus did not have this problem. He was aware of who he was.

### **Jesus Is a King of Peace**

Jesus is the king of peace. Riding a donkey an intentional move by Jesus. In the ancient world, if a king rode into town on a horse he intended war and aggression; but if he rode into town on a donkey, he intended peace. Jesus rode into town on a donkey to demonstrate his kingship, and His kingdom will be one of peace!

Jesus is not a “peaceful king.” He is anything but soft. Just ask the religious rulers, the Roman politicians, and Peter.

Jesus, however, is a king who provides peace to his followers.

John 14:27 Kings do not say, “I give you.” Kings say, “You give me.” Kings do not say, “Do not be afraid.” Kings use fear as a tool to get their subjects to obey them.

But King Jesus says, “I give you peace.” He even helps us understand that the peace he gives is of ultimate value. His peace cannot be found in this world. His peace is not circumstantial; it is an internal and eternal peace.

What peace did He come to bring? Peace with God. Romans 5:1-2 This peace is Himself living in those who repent of their sin and receive Him by faith into their hearts.

## **Jesus Is a Compassionate King**

*Compassion is the act of feeling or showing sympathy and concern for others.* Jesus didn't just show compassion; he was filled with compassion.

Luke 19:41-42 "He wept." The Greek word used there, "klaíō." It means *weep aloud, expressing uncontainable, audible grief*. Why is He weeping? *He understands what everyone else does not understand*. He is riding into battle. Most of these people, including His disciples, will abandon Him. He knows victory will come, but only after what seems like defeat to everyone else. He weeps over Jerusalem, for the Jews have reject Him as the way to find peace with God. They are confused as to who He is and is about to happen at the end of the week.

Jesus' tears are mingled with ours even today. We, too, are confused most days as to what is happening. We get caught up in the hype of what is important and what is not. Jesus is not a king who sits back and watches us with a stoic look. No, Jesus is involved with us in our confusion because He is a compassionate king.

## **In the World, Not of This World**

Jesus would clarify his kingship and kingdom as he spoke with Pilate right before heading to the cross to battle for our souls.

John 18:33-37 all of us must answer the question that Jesus asked Pilate, "Is that your own idea? Or did others talk to you about me?" In other words, "Am I your king, or are you just saying that because someone else told you to?"

If Jesus is my king, then I am his subject. That is, I listen to him, I follow him, and I trust him. There have always been those who seek to make the Kingdom of Jesus about this world.

However, Jesus literally said to Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world." He goes on to say, "My kingdom is from another place." Isaiah 66:1

The kingdom of Jesus is not of this world; however, it is in this world. As followers of Jesus, we are citizens of heaven, living on earth.

John 17:14-15 Jesus says we are not of this world. Why? Because we are citizens of heaven. We are subjects to King Jesus. We are not citizens of this world and its systems. If we are not careful, we will stop there and do everything we can to escape the world.

He is calling us to be in this world but not of this world. He is asking the Father to protect us from the evil one so that we can serve him faithfully while we are in this world.

The Apostle Paul would write in 2 Corinthians 5:20, *We are Christ's ambassadors*.

We get to spend our lives representing King Jesus in this world. And what does an ambassador do?

As ambassadors of King Jesus, *we have the duty and opportunity to put him on display by choosing to live like him as best we can*.

—We choose to be the humble people of the world looking for an opportunity to serve rather than being served.

—We choose to be the peace givers of the world, looking for unity rather than demanding our way.

—We choose to be the most compassionate people, showing sympathy and concern for others. Choosing to live out humility, peace, and compassion will be heard much louder than shouting from a cliff.