



Who Is This?

Key idea:

Jesus is our Lord, our Messiah, and our King, the only begotten-Son of the Father, promised in the Old Testament to rescue His people and join them to His Father.

Key text:

Matthew 21:1-11

¹ As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” (Zechariah 9:9)

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (21:9 Psalm 118:25,26)

“Hosanna (21:9 A Hebrew expression meaning “Save!” which became an exclamation of praise; also in verse 15 in the highest heaven!”)

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Key points:

1. There is no question more important than the question of Jesus’ identity. If Jesus is who He said He is, it changes everything.
2. There were basically three perspectives on Jesus Christ: worshippers, honest questioners, and religious leaders who sneered. The same three perspectives exist today.
3. Zechariah prophesied Jesus’ “triumphal entry” 500 years earlier. God declares that the Lord is coming, he will live among you, and declared that the Lord is coming, He will live among you, and many nations will be joined with the Lord.
4. Zechariah also prophesies the Lord will be a king who is both righteous and victorious, and lowly and riding on a donkey.
5. Jesus is King, but He’s a humble hearted king who flips our values on their head when He teaches, ‘the last will be first, and the first will be last.’
6. The people shout Hosanna, “save us.” Jesus comes to save, but not in the way the crowd thinks.
7. Psalm 118 prophesies the blessed one who comes in the name of the Lord, is coming to become a human sacrifice.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What is the conflict we confront when considering honestly the identity of Jesus Christ?
2. How do the responses of the crowd on that first Palm Sunday reflect people’s response to Jesus today?
3. What were people’s various answers to the question: Who is this?

4. In Zechariah 2:10 and 9:9, there seem to be 2 Lords mentioned, the one speaking and the one described as the Lord Almighty. What do you make of this? Can you think of other places in the Old or New Testament when 2 Lords are mentioned or inferred?
5. What is the significance of the donkey to the story of Palm Sunday?
6. How do you respond to those who say Jesus was attempting to fulfill Zechariah's prophecy by sending His disciples to find a donkey?
7. What do you think it might mean that Jesus told the disciples exactly where they would find a donkey and its foal; and told them what they should say if challenged?
8. How does Jesus' humility represented by His riding a donkey fit with His teaching that the last shall be first, and the first shall be last?
9. How does Jesus' teaching on humility comport with our tendency to compare ourselves to others either in our lack of satisfaction or our self-justification?
10. Who do you say that Jesus is? Are you submitting to Jesus as King?
11. Do you know anyone who needs a King who can rescue them by dying in their place?

Preview of next week: The Resurrection of A Joyous Living Hope (1 Peter 1:3-9)