



The (Un)expected Savior King

Key idea:

Jesus Christ wasn't the Savior King Israel expected, and He's not always the Savior King we expect. But Jesus is the Savior King Israel and we urgently and desperately need.

Key text:

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Key points:

1. Zechariah prophesied about a King who will save Israel from their enemies and rule the earth.
2. The angel told Joseph in Matthew 1:21 that He was to give the Christ child the name Jesus because he will save His people from their sins.
3. Jesus defied the expectations of the authorities, the religious leaders, and even the common people. They were looking for a Messiah who would deliver them from the Romans, not a Messiah who would deliver them from their own sin.
4. The name Jesus (Yeshua in the Aramaic) means The Lord is salvation.
 - A. Salvation was His mission. He is our ransom, our rescuer, our hero.
 - B. His name tells us not only what His mission is, but what salvation is. It's not just a what, it's a Who. It's Jesus.
5. We want a Messiah who will meet our current need, but (un)expectedly, He meets our deepest need: forgiveness. And in doing so, we have everything else we need *in Him*.

6. Our natural experience tells us the normal trajectory of the world is birth to life to death. That's the way of Adam, and "all flesh." But Jesus comes to set the world right side up. He follows the path of life to death, but then conquers death and rises bodily to give us the assurance that He is setting the creation to rights and will redeem and renew it.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Does it surprise you that the main instruction by the Angel to Joseph was what to name the Christ child? Why or why not?
3. Do you see other examples of people's names reflecting their character or relationship to God in Scripture?
4. When you hear that the name Jesus means, "The Lord is salvation," what do you think that tells you about salvation?
5. What do you think The Lord is salvation tells you about Jesus?
6. What do you think you need salvation from? Does Jesus meet your need?
7. Does it encourage you that you are not only saved from sin, death, and the wrath of God, but that you are also saved for Jesus, and eternal life, and heaven?
8. Have you normally thought the parable in Matthew 13:44 was you finding a Jesus and giving up everything to possess Him? How does it change your perception of Christ's mission to think about it the other way around, you are the treasure and Christ has given up everything to possess you?
9. Have you considered we no longer need to see life as leading to death, but instead that Jesus has defeated sin and death and now thanks to His saving work this life leads to greater, more abundant life with Him beyond death?
10. Who will I call or see to invite to next Sunday's service in order to rejoice and worship during this Advent season?