

Title: The Unexpected Savior King

Text: Zechariah 9:9

Theme: 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.

I. The problem of shame and guilt

- A. "Out damn spot! Out, I say" A lament by Lady MacBeth
- B. The Shame and guilt of sin are beyond the powers of a 17th century Danish doctor and they're beyond our power today.

II. Introduction

- A. 2nd week of Advent
- B. Jesus as our (un)expected Savior King

III. Text — Zechariah 9:9 (ESV)

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout, o daughter Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you,
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

IV. Who was Zechariah

- A. Calling Exiles back to God
- B. Encouraging them to rebuild the temple
- C. Assuring God will send a King who will save Israel from their enemies and rule the earth

V. How do you picture salvation?

- A. Get-out-of-hell-free, blessings, things to come?
- B. Groucho Marx, "I intend to live forever, or die trying."

VI. Matthew 1:21

²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

- A. Joseph expresses shame
- B. An angel tells Joseph to take Mary as his wife
- C. The angel focuses on the name of the Christ child
- D. Names were important
 - i. Today, not so much

- ii. Names were how people then thought about, talked about, and what they expected from people

VII. The Name Jesus (Yeshua)

- A. Meaning: The Lord is Salvation
- B. Related to Joshua who saved his people from the wilderness and led them to the promised land, so Jesus will save His people from sin and lead them to eternal life with Christ.
- C. Acts 4:12.

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

- C. Religious practices don't save according to Hebrews 10:1-4. Religion only reminds us of our sin.

¹The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

²Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. ⁴It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

- D. Leviticus 16 and the Day of Atonement
- E. Hebrews 10: 1-4

¹ The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming — not the realities themselves.

⁴ It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

- F. Hebrews 10:5-7

⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;

⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.

⁷Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.’”

- G. Hebrews 10:10

¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ *once for all*.

H. Once for all is our only hope, our only escape from guilt and shame

I. The (un)Expected Messiah

I. Born in Bethlehem, but not by accident

II. King, but not pauper

III. Celebrated, but not by shepherds and pagan magicians

IV. Not grow up in Nazareth (John 1:46), born to a carpenter, or become a wandering rabbi

V. Not be best friends of fisherman, tax collectors, zealots and women

VI. Critical of Pharisees, but call a centurion the most faithful (Luke 7:9)

VII. The Samaritan woman at the well, the paralytic, the blind man, the leper, the man who asked Jesus to help his unbelief. (John 4:25-26)

VIII. The widow of Nain and the synagogue leader (Luke 7:11-15) (Mark 6:41)

VIII. Jesus. The Lord is *salvation*

A. Salvation was His mission

B. Our ransom

C. The Infinite death of deity

D. The King who owns all creation makes Himself poor in order to make paupers rich

E. Roy Lesson's quote:

"If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a savior."

IX. A debt we can never repay, but in Jesus no debt is owed.

Hebrews 10:17, "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."

Or Isaiah 43:25. "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."

X. Jesus. *The Lord* is salvation

A. His name tells us not only what His mission is, but it also tells us what salvation is. It's not just a what, it's a Who. It's Jesus.

B. He's the Prince who gets in the gutter with us, lifts us up, and makes us children of His Father

C. The Lord Himself is our redemption.

- D. But *In Him*, we get everything else too — eternal life, freedom from hell, rescue from wrath, blessing, peace, purpose, etc...

Ephesians 2:6:

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms *in Christ Jesus*.

Philippians 4:19

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory *in Christ Jesus*.

2 Corinthians 1:20

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” *in Christ*. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

- E. What if Jesus’ parable about the man who finds a treasure in the field is about Jesus finding us? He gives up everything for us who are lost and need to be saved.

Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

XI. Application

- A. Will you allow Jesus to meet your greatest need?
- B. Join David is saying from Psalm 13:5-6

“... I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord’s praise, for he has been good to me.”

XII. Communion

- A. Our natural experience tells us life is difficult and then you die.
- B. 1 Kings 2:2, David says, “*I am going the way of all flesh.*” So be strong, act like a man.
- C. “*For life is quite absurd. And death’s the final word.*” Monty Python
- D. The great English poet, Lord Byron said, “*All tragedies are finished by a death, all comedies by a marriage.*”
- E. Revelation Chapter 19, we’re told about a marriage and a wedding feast. And all those in Christ are invited.
- F. He defeats sin and Satan and death and the grave, and He rises up again to turn everything right side up.

- G. Just as the King was raised to resurrection glory, so His Kingdom will be restored and glorified.
- H. 1 Corinthians 15:55, *"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"*
- I. We come to this table in anticipation of that great wedding day. That glorious feast. Looking forward to Christ's return is what Advent is all about.

XIII. Benediction

A poem by St. Patrick of Ireland, in the 5th Century.

May the Lord of our salvation hear our prayer and may the holy spirit make it true of everyone in our hearing this moment.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks to me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Salvation is of the Lord.
Salvation is of the Christ.
May your salvation, Lord, be ever with us.

We are blessed beyond understanding by Jesus Christ, the Lord is salvation, go forth in the name of Jesus, The Lord is salvation, and be a blessing.