



The (Un)Expected King and Kingdom

Key idea:

The long-expected King coming to save God's people came and did His work in a manner totally unexpected and inaugurated an (Un)Expected Kingdom that is very different than the kingdom of this world.

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. The people of God had been expecting their Messianic King to come for many years, and the expectation had been growing in clarity and intensity.
2. Even though the people expected the Messiah, the way in which Jesus came was very unexpected. This is seen in four major ways:
 - a. Jesus was unexpected in the manner of His coming
 - b. Jesus was unexpected in His manner of righteousness and justice
 - c. Jesus was unexpected in His manner of saving
 - d. Jesus offers us a kingdom full of unexpected paradoxes

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. As we have progressed through this series, what aspect of Jesus as the (Un)Expected King has been most surprising to me?
3. It was already unexpected for the Son of God to humble Himself by becoming human, so why did Jesus further humble Himself by being born in such humble circumstances? What does that tell me about Jesus as the King?

4. In John 3:16-17 we read “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” Does this familiar verse have anything that unexpected? Why did Jesus not come to condemn the world? What was the status of the world apart from the coming of Jesus?
5. The Messianic King is described in Zechariah 9:9 (and many other places) as being righteous. How often does the word “righteous” come to mind when I think of political leaders? What words would I use to describe political leaders? What does this tell me about the nature of the kingdoms of this world?
6. On Sunday Bret said, “But in this Kingdom true life is found in humility rather than pride, in looking out for the needs of others, in serving rather than being served, and in denying myself rather than following my wayward desires.” If I truly try to live in this manner, how do I think it will work out in this world? Do I think I might be taken advantage of by others? What would be necessary for me to live in this way?
7. Based on the full experience of Jesus in His incarnation, is it possible that if I follow the ways of this (Un)Expected King and His (Un)Expected Kingdom I might suffer and “lose” in this life? If so, why would I want to walk in this manner?
8. Who will I call or see to invite to gather with the church this Christmas Eve?