

## See Your King Comes - Matthew 21

**Series:** Following the King  
**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026, Palm Sunday  
**Location:** St George's Battery Point  
**Texts:** Matthew 21:1-11, 26:14-27-54

What kind of king do we want?

We live in a world that is crying out for leadership.

When you feel like you're persecuted, marginalised, despised, mocked, disrespected, you feel resentment. You want a champion who is going to fight for you, who is going to defend your values, who is going to take charge, act decisively, who is going to restore things to the way they should be. You want someone who is going to save you and defeat your enemies. You want strength.

This was the situation for the Jews of Jesus day. They were under Roman occupation. They were divided into different warring sects - Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots. But they had a promise, that one day a Messiah would come. God's king who would defeat their enemies and save them.

And on this day, the Sunday before the Passover, they thought that king had come. He rode into the holy city on a donkey, fulfilling the words of ancient prophecy. The crowds shouted the words of another ancient hymn, Psalm 118, "Hosannah!: which means Save! "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

But what did Zechariah say? "See your king comes to you, [not in strength and power], but *gentle* and riding on a donkey."

This is the king who had said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am *gentle and humble in heart*, and you will find rest for your souls."<sup>1</sup>

Just before Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, Matthew has him say this to the disciples,

'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. **26** Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **27** and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – **28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Jesus does come as king. He calls us to celebrate his coming and bow the knee before him. He is the king who says, "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you."

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 11.29

He is the king who says “I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you clothed me. I was in prison and you visited me... whatever you did for the least of these ... you did for me.”

This is what it looks like to live as one of the subjects of his kingdom.

But we have also just heard read what his kingship is like. He is the king who suffered and died. He is gentle and humble in heart. He has come to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many, even for you and for me.

He saves us through losing his life. He conquers through defeat. He brings life through his death. We are safe in the shadow of his cross. And because we are safe in him, we can hear his call, lose our lives for his sake, take up our cross and follow him.

We are seeing all too clearly the weapons of this world, power, hatred, violence, ego, vengeance. This Holy Week let us find ourselves in the old old Story that says we are safe in the crucified king, so we can carry his peace and love to a hurting and anxious world.