

Oh God Save Us!

Matthew 21:1-2 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,

Jesus had been suppressing this kind of attention. Telling people that had been healed to tell no one.

But here, Jesus enters in the most public way possible.

Jesus knows that He will be executed if He enters Rome. By entering this way, Jesus is showing no fear, and that He is in full control of what is going to happen to Him.

Jesus is Sovereign.

John 10:17-18 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Matthew 26:53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

- At no point is Jesus a victim. Even though He will eventually be crucified, He remains God and is in complete control of the events.
- The people have freewill – as they will exercise – but that will not deter Jesus from His mission.

Matthew 21:2-7 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and bring *them* to Me. ³ And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." ⁴ All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ⁵ "*Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'*" ⁶ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded

them.⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set *Him* on them.

- It would have been easy for the disciples to not be obedient here. Is Jesus asking them to steal? How did Jesus tell the owner He needed the donkey? What if we pick the wrong donkey? What if the owner is not feeling obedient today?
- By the requisition of the colt, Jesus demonstrates both His sovereignty and His humility.
 - He is sovereign because He is God and God has ultimate, unlimited power
 - He is lowly, humble because He allows us to choose whether to worship Him or not.
- And He fulfills the prophecy.

This is good news for us!

- We may feel sometimes like life is just dragging us around. But obedience to Jesus allows us to step into the sovereignty of Jesus. So your boss is not dictating your mood, your bank is not dictating your provision. Your life circumstances do not dictate your outcome.
- A fully surrendered life brings us into alignment with Jesus' desired outcome.
- But we must choose, just as the disciples did, to be obedient.

Matthew 21:8-9 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road.⁹ Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! '*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!*' Hosanna in the highest!"

Hosanna - Oh Save!

- They were crying out for salvation!
- Palm Branches meant national independence. Overthrow Rome.
- They were crying out God Save Us.

There were 4 schools of thought on who the Messiah would be.

Each was looking to be saved according to their school of thought.

1. **Sadducees** – Looking for an aristocratic King. Royalty. Someone to deliver them from their current political situation and bring peace to their kingdom forever. They wanted to be saved from Rome and their enemies.
2. **Pharisees** – Religious, looking for a Theocracy. They were looking for someone to enforce righteousness throughout the land. They wanted to be saved from evil.
3. **Aceans** – Monastic and the Kingdom of Heaven was not of this earth but could be achieved through piety. Looking to be saved from this physical world.
4. **Zealots** – Militant raising of a king by force. They wanted a military King that would conquer the world. The Messiah would bring a Kingdom ruled by God rather than man.

If they had surrendered to Jesus and accepted that He was the Messiah, they would have seen the salvation that they each needed to see.

1. **For the Sadducees**, Jesus did come to deliver them from their enemies and bring peace forever. This would be peace with God and deliverance from Satan. While Jesus would not deliver them from their political distress, He would translate them into a Kingdom that is unshakable and the things of this world would fade away as they enjoyed peace with God.
 - a. **Colossians 1:13** He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love

- b. **Romans 5:1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ
2. **For the Pharisees**, Jesus became the path to righteousness. They wanted someone that would enforce the law. But no one is capable to live according to the law. So Jesus became the fulfillment of the law.
- a. **Romans 10:1-4** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
3. **For the Aceans**, Jesus brought a Kingdom that was not of this world.
- a. **John 18:36** Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."
4. **For the Zealots**, Jesus did bring a Kingdom that is not only ruled by God, but also one that conquered death, hell, and the grave.
- a. **Daniel 7:27** Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

What are you crying out "Save Me" for?

- Some people believe we need a governmental reform, we need to be saved from the government. Just like the common citizen of Israel wanted saving from Rome.

- Some believe we need revival. We need to be saved from the wickedness of the world around us.
- Some need saving in their individual circumstances. Not enough money, not enough time, broken families, relationships.
- Addictions, unhappiness, unfulfillment...

Whatever we feel we need saving from – we need Jesus.

The essence of salvation is to be made whole.

To Be Made Whole:

Matthew 4:23-24 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. ²⁴ Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.

- Demon Possessed – daimonizomai – Deliverance of the spirit
- Epileptics - selēniazomai – To be crazy, a lunatic – Healing of the soul
- Paralytics – paralutikos- healing of the body

This is to be made whole.

Jesus came to save us.

The real question is, Do you believe that Jesus can save you now?

The majority of people will not.

Matthew 27:22 Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" *They* all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"

- Less than a week and the people have turned. Why?
 - Because how can this man save them how they need to be saved.

- If they had waited, they would have seen the salvation of the Lord.
- But Jesus did not do it the way they wanted it done. He did it the way it would actually work.

A few people will have faith that Jesus can save them.

The disciples believed Jesus and had faith. They went to the city. Found that donkey and began to untie him. They had to believe that the donkey would be there. That the owner would release him. That they wouldn't go to jail or worse.

They were willing to be obedient and follow Jesus even when it did not make sense. And they all saw salvation.