

Summary

This sermon explores Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem from Mark 11, emphasizing that Jesus is the true King who enters not as expected but as needed. The message contrasts Jesus riding a donkey with Pilate's military entrance, showing that sometimes the Messiah we want is not the Messiah we need. The sermon focuses on three responses needed for Jesus to have a triumphal entry in our hearts: being available to run errands for God, being generous with what we have, and bringing costly praise. The pastor emphasizes that real change happens through surrendering to Jesus as King rather than trying to be king of our own lives.

Intro Prayer

Father, we come before You at the beginning of this new year with hearts that long for change and transformation. We acknowledge that You are sovereign and good, and that You love us deeply. We ask that You would open our hearts today to receive what You want to teach us through Your Word. Help us to be available to Your leading, generous with what You've given us, and willing to offer You the praise You deserve. Prepare our hearts to welcome You as King in every area of our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one thing you're hoping will change or improve in your life this year?

Key Verses

1. Mark 11:1-11
2. Mark 1:15
3. Zechariah 9:9
4. Psalm 118
5. Psalm 24:1

Questions

1. How does Jesus' choice to ride a donkey instead of a war horse challenge our expectations of how God works in our lives?
2. The pastor mentioned that 'sometimes the Messiah we want is not the Messiah we need.' Can you think of a time when God's answer to your prayers was different from what you expected but turned out to be what you needed?
3. What does it mean practically to 'run errands for God' in your daily life? What might that look like this week?
4. The sermon emphasized that 'availability is the greatest ability in the kingdom of God.' What are some things that might be hindering your availability to God?

5. How does the concept of Jesus 'borrowing' things throughout His ministry (manger, boat, donkey, tomb) change your perspective on generosity and stewardship?
6. The crowd's praise was described as 'costly' because it was countercultural and risky. What makes praise costly for us today?
7. What are some 'other saviors' or things we might run to instead of Jesus when we need help or comfort?
8. How can we practically 'crown Jesus' as King in our daily decisions rather than trying to be king of our own lives?

Life Application

This week, look for one specific opportunity to 'run an errand for God' - something that requires you to change your plans or step out of your comfort zone to serve Him or others. It might be praying for someone, sending an encouraging message, helping a neighbor, or simply being available when God prompts you to act. Pay attention to how God might be asking you to be His 'errand boy' or 'errand girl' this week.

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus is the true King who deserves our complete surrender and worship
2. Sometimes the Messiah we want is not the Messiah we need - we must accept Jesus on His terms
3. Availability is the greatest ability in the kingdom of God - being willing to run errands for Jesus
4. Generosity opens our hearts to experience God's blessings and gives us the joy that comes through giving
5. Costly praise that goes against cultural norms opens our hearts to receive more of what God wants to give us

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for being the King we need, even when You're not always the King we expect. Help us this week to live with open hands and available hearts, ready to run errands for You and to be generous with all You've given us. May our lives be a continual triumphal entry, welcoming You as King in every decision and circumstance. Save us from trying to be king of our own lives, and help us find true peace and purpose in surrendering to Your loving rule and reign. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.