

Crown the King

Թագաւորը Թագադրեցէ՛ք

Mark 11:1-11

Have you ever watched on TV a coronation ceremony? Well, I have not. But here are some stories about royal coronations.

-The Queen Mother was not entirely amused when Queen Elizabeth II (her elder daughter) considered having a second glass of wine with lunch one day shortly after her coronation. "Don't forget, my dear," the elder Elizabeth drily remarked, "you have to reign all afternoon."

-In 1762, after ruling for just six months, Czar Peter III was assassinated by a group led by the lover of his wife Catherine II. Thirty-five years later, Peter's coffin was opened so that he could be crowned.

-At the moment of Napoleon' crowning when the Pope said, "Receive the imperial crown..." Napoleon unexpectedly turned and, forestalling the Pope, removed his laurel wreath and crowned himself and then crowned the kneeling Joséphine with a small crown surmounted by a cross, which he had first placed on his own head.¹

Today our Lord Jesus Christ is entering Jerusalem as a King. This was the moment the Israelites were waiting for. If we look back to their history, we see the glory of King David, then King Solomon, followed by the division of the kingdom and exile. Centuries passed after the return from exile and the crowd did not see any the glorious kings coming to Jerusalem to rescue them. They only had prophecies and promises from God:

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.”(Jeremiah 23:5)

Today, we have this prophecy fulfilled. Today from Jesse's branch the King, the Lord parading into Jerusalem. Who is this King? What kind of King is he who

enters on a colt and not a horse? Who is this king who was cheered by the crowd but not by the leadership of the nation?

Today's passage has three parts: **the preparation for the king, the procession of the king, and the arrival of the king.** Mark gives far more details for the first one and the strange climax for the end of the procession.

1. The preparation for the procession of the King

We read seven verses dedicated to the preparation. Jesus tells the disciples exactly where and how they would find the colt. Indeed, they found the colt; it was tied outside the street; people asked them what they were doing and they answered exactly as Jesus wanted them to: "The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately."

Why are all these details mentioned? "They are narrated so as to demonstrate Jesus' precise knowledge and sovereignty over subsequent events."² A colt and not a horse, a camel, or an elephant has a messianic connection according to the Old Testament.

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of 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." (Zechariah 9:9) see also (Gen 49:11)

Jesus planned this part in detail; I believe he has a message for the disciples and to us today. This part he did not leave it for spontaneity. A King who parades to Jerusalem on a colt that no one had ridden on before has a profound messianic message. The king is telling a message to his disciples, a message of humility.

"Is it interesting that Jesus was born in a womb which had the divine touch that nobody had ever experienced; he rides a donkey that no man has ever sat; and he will be laid in a tomb where no man has ever laid."³

2. The procession of the King

Everyone is cheering. There is a crowd. The children and shouting. Please remember it is Passover time- freedom time. “It was also, as far as they were concerned, Kingdom time: the time of Passover dreams, the great hope of freedom, of God’s sovereign and saving presence being revealed in a quiet new way, would as last come true.”⁴

This section Jesus left it to spontaneity. People loved him. They covered two miles of the road with their clothes, leaves, whatever they could find. Also there was unrehearsed choir. They were singing *Hallel* praise Psalms “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! (Psalm 118:26)

They were also shouting **Hosanna** הוֹשִׁיעָה אֲנִי *hōšâ'-nā* **Save us!** How ironic to see people shouting “Save us” using the word *Yashoua* which is the name of Jesus savior. Then they continue worshiping singing:

“Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”(Mark 11:10)

The point is the crowd finds a new king who is coming in. They want to crown him. They are shouting and bursting in joy. In one of versions the priests ask Jesus to silence the people.

3. The arrival of the King

One expects the climax in this part. This is it.

“And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late...”

What do you mean it was late? Where is the welcoming committee? Where is the temple authority to welcome this King, the Messiah, the one about whom they preached about to the crowd. Where are they?

Have you ever landed in an airport where you were expecting someone to greet you and they were not there. Imagine you come home after some important event, and no one cares you are back, no one...

What an anti-climatic ending for a story. Bear in mind Jesus is entering the temple where the coronation of the king should happen. No one is around, no one is around...

“And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.” (Mark 11:11)

What does this mean to us today? Application

A. There was one name in the story, Jesus the King, the blessed one

Mark did not mention any name in these 11 verses except King Jesus. It is not mentioned which disciples were sent to bring the colt, the owner's name is not mentioned, any names from the crowd are not mentioned. No name except Jesus! **“Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest.”**

When the Lord Jesus is praised, all other names fall down. This king is not Napoleon, or a Tsar, or any emperor who will die and their crown dies with them. This king is crowned by His Father who will raise Him from the dead. Therefore, every knee will bow and tongue will confess that HE IS LORD and KING.

In true worship done by the Spirit of the Lord, He, Jesus is the one celebrated and no one else. Why not allow Jesus to be your king?

B. Jesus is a humble king who enters our world without a sword and force. Do you allow him to enter your life? Do you want to have a king like this in your life?

Jesus has might and power beyond measure. Yet he enters to the world on a colt. Like at his birth, he comes with a message. He is the Son of David, yet he will restore the kingdom, God's kingdom in a different way, not like David. He wants his disciples to see that. All that detail in bringing the colt was intentional. Jesus never forces himself on the hearts of humanity. He has his way to come in, like a crowned king, mighty and forceful, nothing can replace him.

C. People put on the ground their clothes and leaves

Are we ready to put our property at his disposal, to obey his orders even when they puzzle us?

1 www.anecdote.com

2 Edwards, The Gospel According to Mark p 336

3 Brian Morgan, Jerusalem, Meet Your King

4 NT Wright, Mark for everyone p 147