

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."

-At the moment of Napoleon's crowning when the Pope said, "Receive the imperial crown..." Napoleon unexpectedly turned and crowned himself.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 parades 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

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples² and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it.³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'"⁴ And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it.⁵ And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?"⁶ And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go.⁷ And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. (Mark 11:1-7 ESV)

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 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)

"Is it interesting that Jesus was born in a womb that no man has ever touched; he rides a donkey that no man has ever sat; and he will be laid in a tomb where no man has ever laid. They're holy."³

Another important point for riding over colt that no one ever used it. “In the Jewish culture no one was allowed to ride on the King's horse or king's donkey. Only the king would ride his beasts. That is why Jesus specifically asked for a colt that had never been ridden; it was the colt prepared for the king.”⁴

“**The Lord has need of it...**” the Lord, *kurios* needed. For the first time Jesus calls himself the Lord. Which means he is telling that the Master, the Lord, the Sovereign One, the King of the Jews, the Messiah requires a donkey.

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.

2. The procession of the King

⁸ And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹ And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!” (Mark 11:8-10 ESV)

Everyone is cheering; there is a crowd; the children are 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 quite new way, would at last come true.”⁵

This section Jesus left it for spontaneity. People loved him. They covered two miles of the road with their clothes, leaves, whatever they could find. Also, there was an unrehearsed choir. They were singing **Hallel** praise Psalms

“Save us, (הוֹשִׁיעָה Hosannah) we pray, O Lord!
O Lord, we pray, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

We bless you from the house of the Lord.” (Psalm 118:25-26 ESV)

They were also shouting **Hosanna** **אנ הושיעה** *hōšā'-nā* **Save us!** How ironic to see people shouting “Save us” using the word *Yashoua* which is the name of Jesus the Savior. Then they continue worshiping and 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

¹¹ And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. (Mark 11:11 ESV)

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 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-climactic 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 11:11b ESV)

What does this mean to us today? (Application)

1. There was one name in the story, Jesus the king, the blessed one

Mark did not mention any secondary names in these 11 verses except the Messianic names. 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."**

Father David, reparents the Messianic name for the coming to the New Messiah from Jessy's branch.

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.

Not with Jesus. He is the Messiah, the King who will rule forever.

In true worship done by the Spirit of the Lord, He, Jesus is the one celebrated and nothing else. Why not allow Jesus to be your king?

2. Jesus is a humble king who enters our world without a sword or 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.

3. Crown Him

In Luke the Pharisees rebuke Jesus and demands that he rebukes his disciples to not say Hosannah, the Messiah. Jesus says, if they will be silent, the stones will cry out. Do you see what is he saying? **You don't get it... the nature gets it**. When are you going to get it?

Isn't it the same today? Many don't get it... I pray that the Spirit of the Lord will open your eyes to see king Jesus entering to your home, heart, life...and God will crown him. But this week He will be crowned with the crown of the wrath of God, the crown of our sins, the crown **made by thorns** ...

He will bear my sin, the entire sin of humanity...

Crown the King. Yes, He will wear the crown of salvation so that the creation, the universe will be redeemed.

Also on Sunday morning, this king is crowned by His father who raised Him from the dead. Therefore, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that HE IS LORD and KING.

Amen

1 www.anecdotage.com

2 Edwards, The Gospel According to Mark p 336

3 Brain Morgan Jerusalem Meet Your King

4. R.C. Sproul, *He Thought Them as One Who Had Authority Mark*, P 251

5 Wright, Mark for everyone p 147