

KESSID SERMON NOTES



Sermon

Palm Sunday: King of My Heart

Date

3-25-18

Speaker

Pastor Danny Clinton

- (Vs) *Matthew 21:1-11*; This day has been described by Christians for generations as the "triumphal entry into Jerusalem."
- But to really see this as "A Day of Triumph," you must realize this is a day of Two Processions
- You might not know that Jesus' procession into Jerusalem was not the only procession the city saw that day.
- In the year 30 AD, Roman historians record that the governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate, led a procession of Roman cavalry and centurions into the city of Jerusalem.
- From the western side of the city, the opposite side from which Jesus enters, Pontius Pilate leads Roman soldiers on horseback and on foot.
- Each soldier was clad in leather armor polished to a high gloss. On each centurion's head, hammered helmets gleamed in the bright sunlight.

The Reason: The Romans would have been aware that this festival celebrated the liberation of the Jews from another empire, the empire of Egypt.

- Pilate's customary entry into Jerusalem was meant to send a message to the Jews, and to those who might be plotting against the empire of Rome.

A Bit of interesting History...

- Pilate was empowered because he served the "son of god."
- The late emperor Augustus, who ruled from 31 BC to 14 AD, was said to have been fathered by the god Apollo, and conceived by his mother, Atia.
- Inscriptions referred to him as "son of god," "lord," and even, "savior." After his death, the legend had it that he was seen ascending into heaven, to take his place among the gods.

If Pilate's procession was meant as a show of military might and strength, Jesus' procession was meant to show the opposite.

- Both Matthew and Mark record Jesus's own words, as He instructs His disciples to go in to the city and find a donkey tied up.

Jesus words are a quote from Zechariah, the 9th chapter...But, there is more to this passage than just a description of Jesus' means of transportation for that day.

- The prophet Zechariah is speaking to the nation. The prophet Zechariah reassures the people, that God has not forgotten them...(Vs) Zechariah 9:8-10 – “Then I will encamp at my house as a guard...”
- **Do you see?** ... Jesus' quote from the prophet Zechariah reminded those who heard Him of the entire passage...
- The message they heard was, “God will deliver the nation from the oppressor”—in this case, Rome!
- But, the king they seek will come to them humbly, not on a steed of war, but on a slow-moving donkey, the symbol of a king who comes in peace, according to Zechariah.

The two processions could not be more different in the messages they convey.

- Pilate, leading Roman centurions, asserts the power and might of the empire of Rome which crushes all who oppose it.
- Jesus, riding on a young donkey, embodies the peace and tranquility that the shalom that God brings to His people.
- A contrast between kings and kingdoms was on display that day in Rome.

Those who watch that day will make a choice.

- They will either serve the god of this world, might and power; or they will choose to serve the king of a very different kind of kingdom, the kingdom of God.
- **Choice:** This is the same choice Palm Sunday still presents for us today!
- A Decision that is so much harder to make then one may believe...
- Although many of the common people thought they sided with Jesus, they did so for the same reasons the Pharisees and others sided with Rome...

“They thought Jesus could do for them what Rome had done for their rulers—make their lives better, deliver them from the oppressive system under which they lived and worked, and turn the tables on the Romans.”

And so, Jesus, in their minds, never did what they wanted Him to do.

- He never defeated the Romans,
- He never dissolved the unfair tax system,
- He never put common people in charge of the government, and furthermore, he never would...
- And, in addition, Jesus is going to make life worse for them, not better.
- That's why the crowd turns on Jesus by the end of the week. They realize He's not going to do any of those things...These people were deeply disappointed with God.

Where in your life are you disappointed with God?

- And so, where are you choosing to follow Kings of your own making?
- Realizing you can only belong to one Kingdom or the other, ask yourself, “If I had been in Jerusalem that day, and had seen both processions passing by, which would I have chosen to follow?”
- This is the choice we must decide to make every day...To choose love over power and might...

My Own Kingdom or Gods Kingdom...

- Two choices. Two theologies. Two processions. Which do you choose? Who's the King of your life?
- Only in choosing The Living Kingdom of God do you Triumph over Death!