

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
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Sermon title: The Victorious King, Zechariah 9:9

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INTRODUCTION: It's a wonderful day for the Christian calendar: Palm Sunday. It is remembered as the day Jesus went to Jerusalem on a donkey and people laid their cloaks and palm branches on the ground before him. All around the world today, people are remembering this event.

Today, we are going to examine three reasons why people saw Jesus as a victorious king:

1. The people saw Jesus as a victorious king because of his sincere love for people.
2. The people saw Jesus as a victorious king because he met their needs.
3. The people saw Jesus as a victorious king because he challenged a religion gone awry.

Zechariah, the prophet of old, prophesied about it.

SCRIPTURE: Zechariah 9:9⁹ *“Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”*

Look at the descriptors of Jesus centuries before he came: righteous and victorious.

So, I propose the question this morning: How can a king be victorious if he is lowly and riding on a young donkey? A king who wanted war rode a horse. A king who wanted peace rode a donkey.

First, THE PEOPLE SAW JESUS AS A VICTORIOUS KING BECAUSE OF HIS SINCERE LOVE FOR PEOPLE.

Earthly kings did not love people like Jesus did. They used people. Jesus loved people. There is a huge difference. The idea of a people's king had been in Israel's

distant past. They had not experienced a king who ruled in many generations. Jesus probably reminded them of the good things about their previous kings.

Jesus rose above politics and the ways of earthly kings. He did not have a fortress or a castle. He did not need one. He did not have a Senate or House of Representatives. He did not have any caucuses, delegates, or elections. He had no political party affiliation.

He did not have a scepter like earthy kings, nor did he have a royal robe or a crown, but only a week later at his crucifixion, those mocking him would make sure they abused him with these things.

No, Jesus didn't have the political power, accessories, or weapons earthly kings had. Yet, he was a king, and his power was the power of Almighty God. His power was love, and his weapon was love.

Turn to John 11. Here we have the story of Lazarus who was dead.

SCRIPTURE: John 11:32-36 ³² *When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."*

³³ *When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.* ³⁴ *"Where have you laid him?" he asked.*

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

³⁵ *Jesus wept.*

³⁶ *Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"*

EXPLANATION: Then Jesus raised him from the dead. No Roman king would have shed tears for a dead Jew. No Roman king would have such compassion.

Why did the people see Jesus as a victorious king?

- The people saw Jesus as a victorious king because of his sincere love for people—

Second, THE PEOPLE SAW JESUS AS A VICTORIOUS KING BECAUSE HE MET THEIR NEEDS.

These people needed cures for leprosy, palsy, hemorrhaging, blindness, epilepsy, dropsy, deafness, and muteness—just to name a few. And, he healed demon-possessed people.

He healed people because of their faith, because of others' faith, and just because he liked doing it.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:23-25 ²³ *Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.* ²⁴ *News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them.* ²⁵ *Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.*

EXPLANATION: The fame of Jesus spread, and his name became a household name. Earthly kings did not have power over sickness.

But, not all people were sick, and therefore, not all people needed to be healed. Jesus met another need as well. I want you to listen to this: Jesus was great in the large crowd, but he was as equally great in the small group and in the one-on-one setting.

Some people didn't need to be healed. They just needed fellowship. Jesus knew how to identify with the lonely. He knew how to reach out to them.

BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION: A few weeks ago, Chad Mize preached to you about the woman at the well. Jesus broke all the cultural rules when he reached out to her that day. Jesus met people one-on-one, to people who needed fellowship, people who had private questions, people who just needed the one-on-one eye contact with Jesus.

BIBILCAL ILLUSTRATION: We have the story of Nicodemus, a Pharisee who came to Jesus at night time, a man who had sincere questions. It was in the night, in this one-on-one setting that Jesus said the following words:

SCRIPTURE: John 3:16-18 ¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* ¹⁷ *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.* ¹⁸ *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*

EXPLANATION: John 3:16 is probably the most popular scripture in the entire Bible, and it was a bit of a revelation to me that this was said in a one-on-one setting. This is only one of several examples of Jesus in the one-on-one setting. For those of you who write Bible lessons, a good study would be stories of Jesus and one other person.

Jesus was sought after by individuals, and news of his fellowship spirit spread. No Roman king had time to spend with individuals and commoners of society.

Why did the people see Jesus as a victorious king?

- The people saw Jesus as a victorious king because of his sincere love for people.
- The people saw Jesus as a victorious king because he met their needs—

Third, THE PEOPLE SAW JESUS AS A VICTORIOUS KING BECAUSE HE CHALLENGED A RELIGION GONE AWRY.

The Law of Moses has been around since Moses himself. It was actually God's Law given through Moses. No one questioned it. The rabbis taught it, the Pharisees took pride in following it, but no one dared to question it. No one dared to change it. It was complicated enough as it was, but many, many rules had been added.

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:4-5 ⁴ *But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,* ⁵ *to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.*

EXPLANATION: One Christian writer said this regarding Christ perfectly keeping the Law of Moses.

Jesus himself claimed to have been obedient to the law under which he lived, the Law of Moses (Jn. 8: 29, 55). In fact, the Jews were unable to convict Jesus of any transgression of the law (Jn. 8: 46). It is affirmed in the New Testament that Jesus "did no sin" and "was without sin" (I Pet. 2: 22; Heb. 4: 15). Jesus is the only "man" who was ever sinless and yet kept the law.

When Jesus went to the cross, he ended the Law of Moses, not by doing away with it but by fulfilling it. As the ultimate and final sacrifice for sin, the Law of Moses stopped at the foot of the cross.

Earthly kings did not have the power to update the Law of Moses, and no one would have listened to them if they had tried to do it.

I've given you only three reasons why Jesus had a triumphal entry into Jerusalem:

- Because he had a sincere love for people,
- Because he met the needs of people, and
- Because he challenged a religion gone awry.

No wonder he was so popular!

Now, the Jews came to observe the Passover meal. In the Book of Genesis, the Hebrew people had been enslaved for many years. God sent the death angel to take the life of the firstborn of those who did not spread the blood of a lamb over their doors. The Egyptians did not do this, and their firstborn children died. The Hebrews did it, and their firstborn lived.

Now all these years later, they observed the Passover. It was a remembrance of the passing over of the death angel. And, now this new Lamb of God, Jesus, came into the city to give his life and be a ransom.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:1-11 ¹*As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethpage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."*

⁴ *This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:*

⁵ *“Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”*

⁶ *The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,*

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ *When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”*

¹¹ *The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”*

EXPLANATION: This is Jesus—the prophet from Galilee—the Savior of the world—the one who is about to give his life as the ultimate sacrifice. Jesus, the only sinless person who ever lived, was about to become sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

CONCLUSION: Now, you’ve heard the gospel this morning. You’ve heard it taught in your class. You’ve heard the scripture preached. You’ve heard songs sung about Jesus. You’ve heard the children sing about Jesus. You’ve seen the baptism of Jacqueline, making public her profession of faith in Jesus. The old Jacqueline was buried under the water in baptism, and the new Jacqueline arose to be an obedient disciple and follower of Christ. You’ve seen it visually and heard it in music, heard it in spoken words and heard it in prayers.

So, my appeal to you this morning is: Where are you with Jesus? Are you a spectator in the crowd who is asking, *Who is this?* Well, if you came here asking

that question, or if you're watching by television and you've always wanted to ask that, you've got your answer.

Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and he wants to be your Savior. All you have to do is repent of your sin and ask for forgiveness and trust Jesus to be your Lord and Savior.

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