

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
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Sermon title: Why People Treated Jesus Like a Victorious King, Various Scriptures
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INTRODUCTION: I have several scriptures for you today. The first is Zechariah 9:9. If you don't want to follow all the scriptures, you can go to Matthew 21 and wait there.

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

Today I will answer the question: Why did people see Jesus as a victorious king?

1. Because he had power over nature.
2. Because he had power over sickness.
3. Because he updated the Law of Moses.
4. Because he knew more than religious people.
5. Because he had power over death.
6. Because he had no fear of anything.
7. Because of large crowd mentality.

Zechariah, the prophet of old, prophesied about it.

SCRIPTURE: Zechariah 9:9 *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—he was described as righteous and victorious.

EXPLANATION: 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.

Why did the people see Jesus as a victorious king?

First, BECAUSE HE HAD POWER OVER NATURE.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:19 ¹⁹*Seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it except leaves only; and He said to it, "No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you." And at once the fig tree withered.*

EXPLANATION: “At once” comes from the Greek *parachrēma*—“instantly, immediately, on the spot.” It didn’t wither in the days ahead, so people could have said it was already dying. It withered “at once.”

In Mark, Chapter 4, Jesus and his disciples were on a boat in a terrible storm. While the disciples panicked, Jesus slept. When the disciples awoke Jesus, he said, “*Peace be still,*” and nature immediately obeyed. And, the disciples said, “*Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!*” (Mark 4:39-41)

“Be still,” the Greek word *phimoó*— “to muzzle, to put to silence, to reduce to silence.” The storm didn’t stop slowly, diminishing over hours of calming seas. It stopped instantly!

Earthly kings did not have power over nature.

Why did the people see Jesus as a victorious king?

Second, BECAUSE HE HAD POWER OVER SICKNESS.

He had healed people of leprosy, palsy, hemorrhaging, blindness, epilepsy, dropsy, deafness, and muteness. And, he had 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.

Why did the people see Jesus as a victorious king?

Third, BECAUSE HE UPDATED THE LAW OF MOSES,

The Law of Moses has been around since Moses. 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. And, then, here comes Jesus who declared himself, "Lord of the Sabbath."

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 12:10-13 ¹⁰ *And a man was there whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" — so that they might accuse Him.*

¹¹ *And He said to them, "What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out?"*

¹² *"How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."*

¹³ *Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand!" He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other.*

EXPLANATION: Earthly kings did not have the power to update the Law of Moses.

Why did the people see Jesus as a victorious king?

Fourth, BECAUSE HE KNEW MORE THAN RELIGIOUS PEOPLE.

Jesus argued with the Pharisees and won every argument. He questioned their actions, their morals, and called them hypocrites.

EXPLANATION: One Christian writer said, “During the start of His ministry, the body of Pharisees would have been interested to hear what Jesus had to say. They were interested in hearing what any teacher in Israel had to say. The problem they had with Jesus was his monumental claims and the authority with which he spoke. No man had ever spoken like this man; no man had ever won the favor of the masses so quickly and so thoroughly. He even went so far as to claim that he was the very reason for the scripture and the fulfillment of it. Their opposition against him grew to the point where they plotted his death. When Jesus was to be arrested the Pharisees were among those that came to take Him away.”

Since Jesus was being called the King of the Jews, the rabbis and Pharisees could not accept the fact that this king had more religious knowledge than they did.

Why did the people see Jesus as a victorious king?

Fifth, BECAUSE HE HAD POWER OVER DEATH.

EXPLANATION: You’ll hear people say Jesus is the only one to rise from the dead. Not so. The more correct statement is Jesus is the only one to conquer death. Jesus resurrected several people from the dead before he himself was resurrected.

In Luke, Chapters 7 and 8, he raised the son of a widow and Jarius’ daughter, both from the dead. In John 11, we have a dramatic account of Jesus’ power over death.

SCRIPTURE: John 11:38-44 ³⁸ *Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.* ³⁹ *“Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”*

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

Earthly kings did not have power over death.

Why did the people see Jesus as a victorious king?

Sixth, BECAUSE HE HAD NO FEAR OF ANYTHING.

EXPLANATION: In the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus agonized in prayer, he did not doubt, and he was not afraid. The reason we know this is because doubt and fear are sins. And, the Bible says that in his human state, he experienced all we experienced, yet without sin. Jesus said in Matthew Chapters 14 and 21 and Mark 11 doubt is the opposite of faith. And, Jesus told his disciples in Matthew, Chapters 10 and 28 to have no fear of who would persecute them.

Several times Jesus said, “Fear not.”

Even earthly kings had their fears and had to be vigilant toward their enemies.

And, so now, here we have Jesus—with victorious power over nature, with power over sickness, with authority over the Law of Moses, with more knowledge than religious people, with power over death, and with no fear of anyone or anything.

No wonder he was so popular! No wonder the Sanhedrin felt threatened. No wonder the government felt threatened.

Now the Jews came to observe the Passover meal. From Genesis, we know the Hebrew people had been enslaved for many years. God sent the death angel to take 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 spread the blood, and their firstborn children lived.

Now all these years later they observed this event as the Passover. Now this Lamb of God, Jesus, came into the city, and as he did, throngs of people followed.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:1-7 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. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on.*

Why did the people see Jesus as a victorious king?

Seventh, BECAUSE OF LARGE CROWD MENTALITY.

It’s what we call the bandwagon effect...*everyone’s doing it, why not join us?*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:8-11 ⁸*A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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: Only a few days later, this crowd would be swayed by the sweeping popular opinion that this king, Jesus, needed to be crucified. The large crowd became an angry mob. It’s amazing how people can turn in such a short period of time.

CONCLUSION: Now let us look at this king from a personal perspective.

Is Jesus your king? Is he your Lord? Is he your Savior? Today he can be just that. Someday...King Jesus will return and set up his kingdom. It will be unlike anything we can imagine. YOU can be a part of that kingdom.

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