

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

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INTRODCUTION: 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 that we, today, roll out the red carpet for someone. All around the world today, people are remembering Palm Sunday.

Zechariah, the prophet of old, prophesied about the coming king—

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.*

EXPLANATION: 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. And, Jesus came not wage war but to wage peace. Why did the people see Jesus as a victorious king?

I've got 6 reasons this morning as to why people saw 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.

First, BECAUSE HE HAD POWER OVER NATURE.

The day he came into this town, the crowds cheered and laid their branches down. Jesus had become very popular. He had become a hero, and word of mouth traveled about this man. Jesus had become well known because of the things he did and because of the things he said. He had power over the nature, and the people knew it from the stories they heard.

In Mark, chapter 4, Jesus and his disciples were on a boat in a terrible storm. The story reminds me of a time I was on a boat and experienced a storm.

ILLUSTRATION: Fifteen years ago, I chartered a sailboat with a group of guys. The boat came with a boat captain, and we left out of Miami one night. On the boat we all had responsibilities. When we were not sailing, we drove the diesel engines. In sets of two, we drove the boat three hours at a time.

One night, the sails were down, and someone awoke me and another person for our shift. I'll tell you more about it another time, but two of us drove that boat through a serious storm. And, while the storm raged, the boat captain slept. The next morning the boat captain got up, and said, "What happened last night?"

Let me say: Mark 4 came alive to me that night. Jesus was sleeping on a boat with the disciples during a storm.

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)

Earthly kings did not have power over nature, so this power over nature was something which made Jesus unique above earthly kings.

Why did the people see Jesus as a victorious king?

Second, BECAUSE HE HAD POWER OVER SICKNESS.

Leprosy, palsy, hemorrhaging, blindness, epilepsy, dropsy, deafness, muteness—

Jesus healed them all, and Jesus 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.*

The fame of Jesus spread, and his name became a household name.

Earthly kings did not have power over sickness, but Jesus did.

Why did the people see Jesus as a victorious king?

Third, BECAUSE HE UPDATED THE LAW OF MOSES.

EXPLANATION: No one tried to do such a thing. 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. And, then, here comes Jesus who declared himself Lord of the Sabbath (as I taught you several weeks ago).

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 12:10-13 ¹⁰ *and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"*

¹¹ *He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out?"* ¹² *How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."*

¹³ *Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other.*

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.

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

Earthly kings did not have more religious knowledge than the rabbis and the Pharisees.

Why did the people see Jesus as a victorious king?

Fifth, BECAUSE HE HAD POWER OVER DEATH.

EXPLANATION: At this time, Palm Sunday, Jesus had not died yet, but he had demonstrated his power over death. In Luke, Chapters 7 and 8, he raised a widow’s son from the dead, and he raised Jarius’ daughter from the dead.

The most dramatic account of Jesus’ power over death before he himself arose from the grave is found in John 11.

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. They wanted to have it, but they did not. Only Jesus had it.

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 in his human state, he experienced all we experience yet without sin. Jesus said in Matthew, Chapters 14 and 21, and Mark 11 that doubt is the opposite of faith. And, Jesus told his disciples in Matthew, Chapters 10 and 28 to not fear those 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. In Genesis, 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 it, and their firstborn lived.

Now all these years later, they observed the Passover. And, now this Lamb of God, Jesus, came into the city. And, as he did, throngs of people came to see him.

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. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸A 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.”*

CONCLUSION: Only a few days later, this crowd would be swayed by the sweeping popular opinion that this king needed to be crucified. It’s amazing how people can turn in such a short, period of time.

Now, let us look at this king from a personal perspective. Is Jesus your king? Or, is Jesus your pocket charm when you have a need?

Is Jesus your Lord—your boss? Or is Jesus your servant?

Is Jesus your Savior? Or, do you manipulate him to be your savior only when it's convenient for you to have a savior?

Who is this Jesus to you today? Is he your victorious king?

Today Jesus can be your victorious king. Some day this King Jesus will return, and he will set up his kingdom. And, it will be unlike anything we can imagine. And, you can be a part of this Kingdom. Don't wait because it might be too late.

Regardless of what you believe about this victorious king Jesus, he is still victorious King Jesus.

As the news changed about Jesus—in one week, imagine what would happen today. It doesn't matter what the news is, because Jesus is the victorious king, and he's worthy of our all.

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