

Richmond Hill Baptist Church
April 17, 2011
Palm Sunday: Recognizing the King

Prelude & Prayer Time

Call to Worship: *Who Can Satisfy* (Choir)

Palm Branch Processional: *You Are Holy – Prince of Peace* (Kids)

Welcome: Welcome to Richmond Hill Baptist Church on this Palm Sunday! It is good to see you. If you are a guest please fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate at the end of the service. Let's take a moment and greet one another.

Sing: *How Can I Keep From Singing, Shout to the Lord, The Wonderful Cross*

Children's Corner:

Solo: *You Are*

Sermon: **Palm Sunday – Recognizing the King**

Enter stage in costume with dregs and sunglasses.

Some of you recognized me this morning and some of you did not for obvious reasons.

2000 years ago when Jesus entered Jerusalem some of the people recognized Him for who he is; but many failed to see him as a King, their King, the King.

On this Palm Sunday I want to talk about recognizing the King. I have five components to consider.

Palm Sunday – Recognizing the King

Component #1: The Significance of a Colt

Join me as we read about the first Palm Sunday in Luke 19:28-35:

²⁸ *After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.* ²⁹ *As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,* ³⁰ *“Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.* ³¹ *If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it.’”* ³² *Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them.* ³³ *As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”* ³⁴ *They replied, “The Lord needs it.”* ³⁵ *They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.*

What's so important about Jesus riding a colt? In the Old Testament a colt was a practical animal, it was used for service and to carry the burdens of men; perhaps more importantly, it was also a noble animal used by Kings. When they entered a city in peace, they rode a colt to symbolize their peaceful intentions. When a King entered a city as a conqueror, he rode a stallion.

Jesus rode a colt reminding us that he a Prince of Peace. He came offering peace on our behalf. Paul reminds us that our sin makes us enemies with God and yet:

Colossians 1:19: For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

On Palm Sunday 2,000 years ago Jesus rode colt into Jerusalem ready to make peace. Revelation 19 reminds us that someday he will come back and on white stallion ready for war and written on his robe are words: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Component #2: Spontaneous Praise Worthy of a King

Luke 19:36-38

As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest was the way the angels announced the birth of a King.

The whole crowd of disciples was praising God:

Hosanna: Save us! Certainly the people were waiting for a deliverer to rescue them from the tyranny of Rome but this was praise:

- Blessed is the king of Israel who comes in the name of the Lord.
- Blessed is the coming Kingdom of our Father Davd.
- Hosanna in the highest.
- Hosanna blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The people praised God because of the miracles that they had seen. The most significant was the raising of Lazarus from the dead in Bethany.

This kind of praise caught the attention of the religious leaders in Jerusalem.

Component #3: Rebuke and a Reprove

Luke 19:39-40

*Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”
40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”*

The Pharisees viewed this kind of praise for a man as blasphemy but they did not recognize Jesus for who he was and is. They rebuked him.

This reminds me of the amazing description of Jesus in John 1.

John 1:10-12: He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Jesus wanted them to understand that he is worthy of this praise and so he comes back at them with this statement: if they keep quiet the rocks will cry out!

The earth cries out that he is the creator God who is the King of the Universe.

I never want a stone to take my place. I had a whole extra hour this morning to praise God in prayer and song, singing:

All hail the power of Jesus name, let angels prostrate fall, bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.

Component #4: Tears and a Prediction

Luke 19: 41-44

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it⁴² and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side.⁴⁴ They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. Vespasian and his legions leveled the city and desecrated the temple.

Scripture is amazing to me when I compare Biblical prophecy like this to history.

Jerusalem has an opportunity to make peace with God and they did not recognize Him.

Component #5: Putting all the Pieces the Together

John 12:16: *At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.*

Zechariah 9:9: *Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

Application:

- 1. Have you recognized Jesus as the King of your life?**
- 2. Have you cried out Hosanna: Save Me?**
- 3. What God asking you to do?**
- 4. Are you good at following instructions?**
- 5. Are you guilty of the sin of silence?**

Jerusalem: You did not recognize the time of God's coming to you!

Prayer: God we recognize you as the King of Glory. We honour you on this Palm Sunday. Amen

Response & Offertory: Great is Your Glory

1. Thank to everyone who helped with Miracle Sunday. Last Sunday we gave and pledged over \$150,000.00 to reduce our building. God is good. If you missed out you can still give. Information and giving envelopes are at the information centre.
2. Connect Cards: Guest, Prayer Request, Information Salvation, Baptism, or Church Membership

Pray: God we offer you this offering as a gift to you for your glory and for your Kingdom. Amen