

The Good King * John 12, Psalm 29

Palm Sunday * April 5, 2020 * Langford Community Church * Graham Gladstone

That first Palm Sunday must have been quite the sight to see. People cutting down palm branches and waving them back and forth, people throwing their cloaks on the ground for Jesus to ride on, people calling out 'Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Beatlemania had nothing on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

But why? Why were people so excited? Why were people willing to let a donkey walk across the one cloak that they owned?

Because the King had come. And they knew that the King would take care of His people.

That's what good kings do, don't they? They care for their people. They make sure their people are fed. They protect them from their enemies. They rule with wisdom and justice so that there is peace and security in the land.

So when those country folk on Palm Sunday saw the Son of David riding into Jerusalem on a donkey – like kings sometimes did - they lost it, because they understood that the king who would care for them had come.

Now some of them lost interest a week later because 'their king' had died. But all those people who held out hope for just a few more days realized that this king was a king unlike any other.

A king who would die for His people.

A king with power over death.

A king who truly cared.

And that King reigns today. Jesus is just as much king this Palm Sunday as He was that first one.

And good thing too.

Because I'm acutely aware that we need a King who cares right now.

A King who can handle things that are WAY beyond me.

A King who can heal His people.

A King who can preserve His people even in death.

Jesus is a good king to have in the face of COVID-19.

Just listen to Psalm 29 – knowing that this applies to Jesus too -

10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

11 The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace (Psa 29:10-11 NIV).

Jesus is King forever, giving His people strength and peace.

In the psalmist's mind, 'the flood' is the greatest natural disaster that you could face – we're facing a flood in COVID-19 aren't we? And yet our King is even more powerful than that. He is still enthroned above, actively giving us strength and peace.

Jesus is the good king who takes care of His people.

So if you have asked Jesus to be your king - opened up the doors and said 'come in and reign' – then He is working for your benefit even now. Rest in the strength and peace that He gives, knowing that not even death can separate you from His care. Trust that your King is working for good.

And if you can contribute to His mission of welcoming people into His redeeming kingdom, do it; otherwise, stay home and rest and rejoice in the sovereign care of our eternal king. He is taking care of you. And in His sovereign power, He will bring you through.

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