3/24/24 am

“The Entrance of the Expected King”

Matthew 21:1-11

* The entrance of Jesus, the King they were waiting for.
  + Colt (foal of a donkey)
    - Prophecy – Zech 9:9 quote
  + Cloaks and branches on the ground for Him to ride in on
    - 2 Kings 9:11-13 (When Jehu was anointed king)
  + Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!
    - Hosanna = “Save now!”
    - Son of David = a Messianic title
  + “The whole city was stirred up”…because they knew what was being claimed!
  + Jesus affirmed it:
    - His response to the Pharisees (Luke 19:39-40)
    - He admitted such to Pilate (27:11)
* Their worship of Him ***was*** absolutely appropriate! ***This*** was the same one who was in the beginning, and nothing was made except that He made it (John 1:1-5; Col 1:16); He was worshipped around the throne in Heaven, and would be again soon and for all eternity.

***He was the King they were waiting for…Buuut He was a king that they didn’t quite expect***

* Unmet expectations.

Have you ever experienced an unmet expectation? (When reality didn’t match what you expected)

\*Chocolate covered ‘blueberry’

\*Marriage/work

Maybe your expectation was appropriate, but someone let you down, or something unforeseen happened. But maybe your expectation was unrealistic. When an expectation goes unmet, we become disillusioned.

* + For that crowd:
    - They were worshipping Jesus now, but it wouldn’t last (They’d soon desert Him…most would be calling for His death). What happened? They had unrealistic expectations.
      * Many were there because of the miracles they had seen Him do (Lk 19; John 12:17-18)
      * They were hopeful that this was the one to give them relief from Rome
      * Jesus wept over Jerusalem, regarding their misunderstanding of Him (Luke 19:41-44) (“Would that you had known the things that make for peace!)
      * Jesus clears the temple, showing that it wasn’t just Rome He was there to address

* + For us:
    - It’s easy for us to look back at them and shake our heads…but what about us? We may believe He is who He said He is – the King, the Savior…God in the flesh. But we may still have unrealistic expectations of Jesus.
      * Those only casually following Him may be thinking that “He’s here to deliver me from my presenting issue.”
        + “*I’m going to try Jesus for this problem.*” He’s not a tool you can wield, nor a genie you can summon.
        + You will be disillusioned now and later (Matt 25)
        + He came to save you! Repent and trust…turn from what you need saved from to the only one who can save
      * Or even as His disciples, we may have unrealistic expectations as we follow Him
        + ‘Unsuccessful’ ministry
        + Suffering

Worshipping Him for who we’d like Him to be and what we’d like Him to do instead of worshipping Him for who He is, will lead to us being disillusioned disciples…if disciples at all

He has come to save us from the penalty and the power of our sin. He’s come to give us peace with God, which brings enmity with the world (including suffering). He’s not promised to keep us from pain, but to walk with us through it. He’s come not to make you happy, but to make you holy. His call for us to go and tell doesn’t mean that they will all listen. He’s called us to be salt and light in our world, but the culture still may not change. He’s called us to surrender to Him…follow Him…trust Him…and worship Him. He’s promised never to leave us, to make us able for what He’s called us to do, and to keep us for all eternity!

Worship Him who is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!