

Theme: Jesus is worthy of all praise and honor because of who he is, not because of who we want him to be. He did not come into the world to fulfill our plans for him, but to fulfill his perfect plans for us.

Background: Last week – a private act of devotion and love. This week – a public reception for the King.

Introduction: Paul Harvey – “And now you know....., ‘*The Rest of the Story*’”
What happens when we make decisions without the rest of the story?

I. Jerusalem Receives A King (12-14)

A. Announcing his rule

1. “The King” enters the city
 - Breaking the silence
 - No longer restraining the crowds
2. To do the Father’s will
3. Word spreads – the crowd grows
 - They “went out” to meet him

B. An exuberant, joyful reception

1. Palms
 - a. No Old Testament prescription for Passover
 - b. National (nationalist?) symbol
 - Stemming from celebration 200 years earlier
2. Praises!
 - a. *Hosanna* – “give salvation now” (Psalm 118:25)
 - b. The blessing (Psalm 118:26)
 - 1) Originally a blessing for the pilgrim
 - 2) Here – blessing the deliverer
 - Coming “in the name of the Lord”
3. Proclamation
 - “Even the King of Israel!” Not in the Psalm!
 - Clearly messianic desire (cf. 7:31)

II. A Humble King (15)

- Zechariah 9:9-11 is in view. How does this king come??

A. Coming in peace

1. “Fear not” - Imported from Isaiah 40:9?
2. Daughter of Zion – God’s covenant people
3. Riding the colt of a donkey
 - Fulfilling Zechariah 9:9
 - NOTE: Jesus comes to *end* war – not start it!
 - Not on a war horse – but the colt of a donkey

B. The end of war

1. For Israel
 - Jesus is not a zealot or Jewish nationalist
 - To make wars cease
 - a) With Rome
 - b) With God!
 - Reconciling God to mankind
 - Delivering us from wrath of God
 - No longer enemies (Romans 5:10)
2. For the *nations*
 - Zechariah 9:10b / Psalm 72:8

C. Freeing the Prisoners

1. Rooted in the Covenant (Genesis 15)
2. Deliverance from death (Passover)
3. The cross in view

III. Conflicting Agendas (16-19)

A. The crowds

1. National deliverance?
2. Or the bondage of the heart?
3. How long will their praises last?

B. The Jewish leaders

1. A legitimate king? The last thing they want!
2. Speaking more truth than they know – again! (19)
 - The world has gone after him (John 3:17)

C. The Disciples

- They don't "get it" – *yet*
- They would remember these things

IV. Serving the King

- A. We can't bend Jesus to our agendas – we must conform to his!
 - We need (and have) "The rest of the story"

- B. The people wanted to deal with Jesus on their terms
 - They knew part of the story
 - Their agenda did not match his

NOTE: Sounds a lot like the world we live in.

- C. Is the Jesus you know and trust – the same Jesus who has made himself known??
 - How often do I want Jesus to "fix" my problems on my terms?

NOTE: But I can't *see* the rest of the story, as he does.

CONCLUSION: Jesus won't act according to all your expectations – but he will satisfy your needs and cares in ways beyond our imagination! ***He has far better plans than ours.***