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# Sermon Notes

March 24, 2024

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

## The Conquering King John 12:12-15, Psalm 24

### Hosanna!

- ❖ *Hosanna* = "save now" or "deliver us now"
  - the crowd knows Jesus is A king
  - the crowd has no clue about the NATURE of Jesus' kingship
  - the crowd has no idea that Jesus is THE king
- ❖ OT kings are frequently pictured riding on donkeys,
  - thus, Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem on the back of an unbroken donkey is not unusual
  - however, it does underscore that Jesus comes in meekness, lowliness, and with gentleness, ready to rule in peace

### King Over All

- ❖ Psalm 24:1-2, declare God to be master, ruler, sovereign and sustainer of everything and everyone
  - not one stray molecule
  - the earth is the LORD's
  - everything that exists displays God's creative handiwork

- ❖ If God is not the Creator, then
  - He cannot be "in charge"
  - He cannot be King
    - naturalism is the belief that nature is all there is and all there ever has been
    - naturalism is a denial of creation and a denial of God's sovereign rule
- ❖ God is not a nationalistic God, God is KING over all, *the world and those who dwell therein*

### Coming to The King

- ❖ As King of all, EVERYONE owes their allegiance to God
  - everyone is obligated to bow before, worship, and obey the Lord
  - BUT, who has permission to enter the royal court and have audience with such an awesome, holy, powerful righteous King as this?
- ❖ Psalm 24:4 says those who come before God must have both outward obedience (clean hands) and inward integrity (a pure heart)
  - clean hands = outward obedience, keeping God's commands
  - pure heart = inward holiness (*Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God*, Matthew 5:8)
- ❖ Coming to the King requires having a right relationship with God and a right relationship with others
  - worship the one, true, God

- do not lift up your soul to what is false
- honest in our dealings with others
- ❖ Since none of these qualities characterize our natural lives, we must *receive righteousness from the God of our salvation* (v. 5)
  - justification by faith
  - this is not a **prescription** for salvation by works
  - this is a **description** of one who has received the free, unmerited, cleansing, healing gift of God's righteousness

### The Coming of The King

- ❖ Antiphonal (back and forth) singing and the psalms
  - questions are asked in vv. 3, 8, 10 by a soloist or small group
  - answers are given in vv. 8 & 10 by a larger group
- ❖ *Who is this king of glory?* is the repeated question
  - the question we need to confront
  - Jesus' questions
    - *Who do people say that I am?*
    - *Who do you say I am?*
      - ♦ Peter's answer: you are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God
      - ♦ Gabriel to Mary: *the Son of the Most High... the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of*

*Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end*

- ♦ God the Father in Psalm 2: *I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill*
- ♦ Paul
  - *God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,* (Phil. 2:9)
  - Jesus, king of glory is the One who is *far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named* (Ephesians 1:20-21)

- ❖ Who do **YOU** say He is?
  - Jesus has come to earth, returned to heaven and will, one day, return in glory to rule the earth, but there is one place into which Jesus longs to make his royal entrance **TODAY**
  - open your heart to receive the king of glory!

### Personal Application

1. Do you acknowledge that God is King over everything and everyone? Do you live a submissive life that gives testimony of your belief in this?
2. Do you have "clean hands" and a "pure heart"? What can and should you do about this?
3. Do you have a right relationship with God and with others?
4. Is the gate of your heart continually open to letting the King come into it?