

“[RE]FRAME - What Kind of King is Jesus?”

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11

Graphics: frames, pictures, donkey, palms

Big Truth: The story of Jesus’ final week on Earth has multiple levels of understanding and meaning. What the events and actions seem to be on the surface are not always what they appear. In our walk with Jesus in the church, it’s easy to lose sight of the bigger picture while reading or hearing about the events of Jesus’ life. This series will help us see the bigger picture through the experiences Jesus had that lead to the cross and empty tomb on Easter.

Focus phrase: Jesus is the kind of King that gave it all to change my life.

1. Introduction

A. PRAY!

- B. Welcome to Lent, church! Well, actually, the season of Lent that leads us to Easter began on Wednesday night when we gathered here for a powerful Ash Wednesday worship service...and continues until Easter Sunday on April 12.
- C. Between now and then, in worship, we’ll be studying the major events that happened in the life of Jesus in His final week.
 - i. On Easter Sunday, we will celebrate the Resurrection, when Jesus walked out of his own grave under his own power.
 - ii. The Friday before that day, Good Friday, he was hung on a wooden cross like a criminal because the people around Jesus thought He was a threat, since He was claiming to be God.
 - iii. Before Jesus was arrested and condemned to die, Jesus shared one final meal with His closest 12 followers, one of whom, Judas, would betray Jesus and hand him over to the people that wanted to kill him.
 - iv. That meal came after one of Jesus’ followers, Mary of Bethany, wanted to honor Jesus and anointed him with some expensive perfume at her house one day, while the disciples were standing by wondering what she thought she was doing?
 - v. Throughout his ministry, which began when He was 30, Jesus spent time teaching the disciples, and one day before Mary anointed Jesus, He told us about a God who loves us and that our response must be to love God and love each other after he was gone.
 - vi. At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, he stood up to the religious authorities one day in the Temple, just after he arrived at the beginning of His last week...before the cross...before the empty tomb.
- D. We’ll be studying and reliving these scene as told to us in the gospel of Mark.

- E. And the scenes I've described are most likely things you've heard before, in general - that Jesus' ministry took place all over the modern-day country of Israel, yet, for the final week of His life, he went to Jerusalem, to be arrested, tried, convicted, murdered, and raised again to life.
- F. At first glance, these historical events are fairly easy to grasp. Yet, the history of these events is not as important as the REASON they each happened. At first glance, we see a man who tried to change his world and got murdered for it. Yet, Jesus' death and resurrection are THE main pivot point in all Creation.
- G. Everything changed the day Jesus rose from that tomb...and was alive!
- H. During this preparation season, we'll be **reframing** those scenes so that we get a new perspective on these ancient historical eye-witness accounts.
- I. We've entitled this series of messages **[RE]Frame** (refer to the frames).
- J. To reframe something is to physically put an old picture in a new or different frame. When we do that, we see things in the picture that we didn't see before...or aspects of the picture are highlighted that we didn't notice before.
- K. Another definition of *reframe* is to look at something in a different or new way.
- L. Our lives are too precious to God to have them grow stagnant, spiritually. Reframing the stories about Jesus gives us the opportunity to see where WE fit into the picture of God's best plan for our lives.
- M. This season is about reflection, seeing ourselves and our church in a new way, of seeing our sin and turning back to God's way, and preparing our hearts for the celebration of Easter.
- N. Let's REFRAME the stories of Jesus again...and we'll see them - and Him - in new ways that will allow God to call us back to Him again.
- O. The first story that we'll reframe is the one at the beginning of the last week of Jesus' life. It's the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem...on a donkey... amongst a crowd of people...who thought they knew what kind of King Jesus was trying to be.
- P. The question is: What kind of King IS Jesus, really? Let's reframe this and find out...
- Q. Turn with me in your bibles to Mark chapter 11...starting in verse 1...

2. Scripture

A. READ verses 1-7

- i. Have you ever borrowed a horse before? Ya, me neither! I suppose it's not that much different than borrowing a car, right? Or a bicycle.
- ii. Whenever I've borrowed a car, I always felt really awkward going to the person who had the car and asking them if I could take their expensive mode

of transportation for a bit. Sometimes, people offer to let you take their car, but I always feel like I'm imposing.

- iii. It wasn't like that in this case, though.
- iv. At first glance, it appears that Jesus needed transport because he didn't want to walk, and so he told a couple of his disciples to go into the village and steal someone's donkey. Doesn't seem like something Jesus would do.
- v. So what's the bigger picture here?
 - a. First, the Bigger Picture is that Jesus has the sovereignty to know what events will occur and the authority to control them. To be sovereign is to rule have self-rule. Jesus is in charge. He KNEW where there was a colt...and, because he's sovereign, he had the authority to be borrowing it and riding ON it.
 - b. Second thing is that this wasn't about a particular colt or even about transportation, at all! This was about a prophecy that we find in the OT book of Zechariah, chapter 9, verse 9, which says, "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."
- vi. Jesus was reaching back to Zechariah 9:9 and saying, "As I ride into Jerusalem on this colt, to begin the final week of my life, I AM this King who was prophesied...I AM righteous (meaning I'm right with the Father) ...and I WILL be victorious (I will win).
- vii. I AM the King you've been waiting for, lowly, riding in on a colt."
- viii. The people may've seen the first glance and thought, "Oh, cool, Jesus is going to be our King." ...but Jesus was reframing this scene to point to a greater reality about who he ACTUALLY is.
- ix. What kind of King is Jesus? He's the kind that fulfills the OT prophecy about a final King for Israel...and is the kind of King that's sovereign and has authority over all of creation.
- x. Let's see how the crowd reacts...

B. READ verses 8-10

- i. We love a good parade, don't we? Parades are all smiles!
- ii. At first glance, Jesus is in a parade for Passover. People are in front of him...people are behind him. They're laying down their cloaks and leafy branches they cut from the fields...they are throwing down anything that would show honor to Jesus.

- iii. At this point, we're thinking that these people had seen and heard what Jesus had been doing...that he'd been healing the sick and casting out demons...and forgiving people...and teaching about the Kingdom.
- iv. So, in their minds, Jesus is the one who will become King and lead them.
- v. Yet, if we reframe this, to see the bigger picture, we see everyone smiling except Jesus. Jesus was riding into Jerusalem as a King, for sure. Yet, not just ANY king. He was the humble, servant King that Zechariah prophesied would come. But Jesus knew that the people's shouts of Hosanna were more than a celebration. Hosanna means "Save us!" The people just didn't know what it was they were actually saying.
- vi. In the new frame is a picture of Jesus saving all who would believe that his death was the only way to their salvation. It's wasn't about politics or religion or culture or military might. Or a hostile takeover. It was about laying it all down. It was about Jesus answering their cries for salvation by doing the ONE thing that would ensure salvation once for all for everyone... death and resurrection.
- vii. What Kind of King is Jesus? The kind that is willing to lay down his life so the world has the opportunity to be reconciled to a holy God.
- viii. Then, once in the city, Jesus made his way to the Temple - the center of the religious and cultural life of the Jewish people...

C. READ verse 11

- i. Next week, we'll reframe what happens the day AFTER this first day when Jesus rides into Jerusalem. But at first glance, Jesus went to the Temple to check out what was going on. We don't know what he saw, but Mark tells us he saw "everything."
- ii. Spoiler alert for next week: Jesus didn't like "everything" he saw. But, because it was late, he went back out to Bethany to get some rest.
- iii. Bigger picture here is that the Temple is critical to this story. Jesus is pointing to the Temple as the center and symbol of what He came to change. In fact, Jesus rode into Jerusalem that day and went to the Temple to call people's attention to the fact that he came to replace the Temple with himself.

3. Application

- A. See, things aren't always as they first appear. Our brains only process a small percentage of the sights, sounds, smells, and information that our senses sense.
- B. Information that doesn't seem to make sense, or anything that doesn't pose a threat, doesn't seem important, or doesn't impact us, typically gets filtered out and we're left with the rest...maybe 10%...maybe even less.

- C. So, if there's a limited amount of information that we can take in and understand, it's important that we try to understand the most important information, and then respond to THAT, right?
- D. Most important message from Jesus' actions is: Jesus IS the King. He's not the kind of King that people THOUGHT he would be, but he IS the King. What KIND of King is the question...
- i. First, Jesus is the kind of King that has **sovereign authority over all of creation, right down to your life.**
 - a. He knew what was going to happen with that colt before it happened. He had the authority to use that colt - and the permission for that didn't come from man but from the Father himself.
 - b. That colt represents the things in our lives that Jesus wants to use to expand His kingdom and give him glory. Jesus wants to have sovereign authority over every part of YOUR life.
 - c. So often, Jesus can use you to be His hands and feet - your spiritual gifts, your time, your service, your money, your work and play. Yet, we're are unwilling to allow Jesus to untie us and let Him use us.
 - d. During this season of Lent, practicing saying yes to Jesus when he asks you to use ANYTHING you have or do. Reframe the things you HAVE as being His to begin with and it's easier to say yes to allowing Jesus to use them for others...for the church...for the community.
 - ii. Second, Jesus is the kind of King **who is a humble, servant, Messiah.**
 - a. He rode in on a donkey...humble. Yet, he has the power in His hands to change the world...and to change YOU.
 - b. The crowd was saying, "Save us!" And Jesus said, "I can and will!"
 - c. When have the words, "Save me!" come out of your heart or mouth lately? For you, maybe? For someone else?
 - d. I have a long-time friend who told me this week that he has liver cancer. We have people in our church who are right now fighting a battle with cancer, depression, addiction, pain. You've found yourself crying out, "Save me." "Save US!"
 - e. Don't for one minute think that God can't or won't answer that cry. He may not answer it in the way you want, but if we learn anything by reframing this scene from Jerusalem, it's that Jesus' plan is bigger than your plan. Always HAS been. Always WILL be.
 - iii. Then, Jesus is the kind of King **who has a plan.**

- a. He had a plan for this parade. He has a plan for His final week. He has a plan for the Temple the next day.
 - b. Yet, his ultimate plan is not really for his final week. His ultimate plan is for you and me and for everlasting life.
 - c. This sovereign, authoritative, humble, servant King has a plan to save you and every person you know from the punishment of your sin.
 - d. Jesus' plan was not to take over the kingdom by force or by overthrow.
 - e. His plan, from the beginning, was to die...and in that act of final sacrifice, to save every person who believes that God's grace - God's undeserved favor on YOUR life - is given to you through Jesus' sacrifice.
- E. If we reframe this scene, we see way more than a man on a donkey in a crowd full of people shouting praises.
- F. The Big Picture is that we have a Savior who sees the whole of history, and every person in it, and yet cares about you like you were the only one in that crowd that day.
- G. Jesus has the long haul in mind, not just a flashy parade on a donkey.
- H. Jesus had your life in mind when he made eye contact with the people who threw down their cloaks and branches that day.
- I. Today, this sovereign, authoritative, humble, Messiah King has a plan in mind for you. It may not be what it appears to be, at first glance.
- J. Later on, Jesus will invite you to eat with him. To suffer with him. To die with him. And, yet, to be given new life with him.
- K. That's why he rode into Jerusalem that day, 2000 years ago.

4. Conclusion

- A. How will you REFRAME the picture you have of Jesus in your life?
- B. What kind of King is Jesus in our church? In your home? In your heart?
- i. Is Jesus a mighty warrior King who slays all your problems?
 - ii. Is Jesus a gentle and loving King who listens and prays with and for you?
 - iii. Is Jesus a powerful King that saves you from trouble (like hell)?
 - iv. Or is Jesus a sacrificial King who gave up everything so that you and I could be in relationship with God? And all the rest of those things come WITHIN that relationship?
 - v. The answer is reframed on this Table this morning...the Table that represents Jesus' sacrifice of himself for you and me.

- vi. When Jesus rode into the city that day, he knew his body would be broken and his blood shed for us.
- vii. As you come forward in a few minutes, answer the question: “What kind of King is Jesus to me?”
- viii. Easter is coming, church! Let’s ride with Jesus!
- ix. Let’s pray...