

# SERMON SUMMARY

Palm Sunday confronts us with a challenging question: What kind of king do we really want Jesus to be? Drawing from Matthew 21, we're transported to that momentous day when Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as the warrior-king the crowds expected, but riding humbly on a donkey. The people wanted a political messiah who would overthrow Rome, heal their wounds, and restore their nation to glory. They wanted relief without repentance, control without surrender. Yet Jesus came offering something far more radical—a kingdom built not on violence and domination, but on sacrificial love and humble service. This message pierces through our modern expectations, asking us to examine where we're trying to recruit Jesus to our agenda rather than surrendering to His. The crowd's shift from shouting 'Hosanna' on Sunday to 'Crucify Him' by Friday reveals what happens when Jesus refuses to fit our preconceived notions. We're challenged to consider: Are we seeking Jesus to fix our circumstances, or are we willing to be transformed by Him? The call of repentance—metanoia, changing how we think so we do something different—becomes the gateway to truly experiencing the kingdom. This isn't about groveling in guilt, but about the daily renewal of aligning our minds with God's design. Palm Sunday announces that our King has arrived, but perhaps not the king we wanted—and that confronts us with an unavoidable choice.

## Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Palm Sunday is an announcement: Your King is coming—but maybe not the king you wanted.**
- ✓ **Repentance is essential: We must constantly change our thinking to align with God's way, not try to reshape Jesus into our image.**
- ✓ **There are only two options: Crown Him as Lord or reject Him—there is no middle ground.**
- ✓ **Jesus conquers through sacrifice, not force: His power is displayed in humility, not domination.**
- ✓ **The way of the Christian is the way of the cross: Following Jesus means surrendering control and living sacrificially.**

## **INTO THE SERMON**

- **What stood out to you most from this weekend's sermon?**

Was there a phrase, image, or idea that stayed with you?

- **Palm Sunday shows us a crowd that wanted Jesus to save them — but on their terms.**

Where did the sermon challenge the way you think about who Jesus is and what kind of King He came to be?

## **INTO THE TEXT**

**Read Matthew 21:1–11 together as a group.**

**1) What details in this passage stand out about the way Jesus enters Jerusalem?**

**What do those details tell us about the kind of King He is?**

**2) The crowd shouts, “Hosanna to the Son of David.” What were they saying, and what do you think they were expecting Jesus to do?**

**How does the rest of the story show that their expectations were incomplete or misplaced?**

**3) Why do you think Jesus intentionally rides in on a donkey?**

**What is He revealing about His power, His mission, and His kingdom?**

**4) In verse 10, the whole city asks, “Who is this?”**

**How does this question sit underneath the whole passage?**

**Why is that still the most important question for every person to answer?**

**5) As a whole, how does Palm Sunday prepare us for the cross?**

**What does this moment reveal about the difference between the King people wanted and the King they actually needed?**

## **TAKE AWAY / NOW WHAT**

**1) Where are you most tempted to want Jesus to work on your terms instead of surrendering to His?**

**What does that reveal about your expectations of Him?**

**2) The sermon pressed on this idea: we often want relief, but not repentance; control, but not surrender.**

**Where do you see that tension show up in your own life?**

**3) Are there areas of your life where you want Jesus to help you, but not rule you?**

**What might it look like to crown Him King there?**

**4) The sermon asked, “What is your ‘if God doesn’t, then I won’t’ line?”**

**Is there a condition you’ve placed on trusting or following Jesus?**

**5) Palm Sunday confronts us with a decision: will we receive Jesus as He truly is, or only as we prefer Him to be?**

**What would it look like for you this week to follow Jesus in the way of humility, surrender, and the cross?**