

# Palm Sunday: The King Who Loves

## 5-Day Devotional

### Day 1: The King We Want vs. The King We Need

#### **Reading**

Luke 19:11-27 While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’ “But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king.’ “He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. “The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’ ““Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’ “The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’ “His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’ “Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.’ “His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn’t you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?’ “Then he said to those standing by, ‘Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.’ ““Sir,’ they said, ‘he already has ten!’ “He replied, ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away. But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.’”

#### **Devotional**

Jesus told a troubling parable about a harsh king on the eve of Palm Sunday, not to describe himself, but to challenge his followers' expectations. We often approach God wanting a king who will crush our enemies and solve our problems our way. But Jesus offers something different—a kingdom built on love, not revenge. Today, examine your own expectations of God. Are you seeking a king who will validate your anger, or are you open to a Savior who calls you to radical love? The kingdom Jesus brings doesn't always match our desires, but it's exactly what our broken world needs. What would change in your life if you truly embraced a King of compassion over a king of conquest?

### Day 2: Weeping Over What Could Be

#### **Reading**

Luke 19:37-44 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” Some of the Pharisees in the

crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

### **Devotional**

As Jesus approached Jerusalem amid shouts of praise, he wept. He saw a city choosing violence over peace, revenge over reconciliation. His tears reveal the heart of God—not distant or indifferent but deeply moved by our pain and poor choices. Where in your life have you chosen the path of bitterness instead of healing? Jesus weeps over those decisions not in judgment, but in genuine sorrow for what we lose when we reject love. His tears invite us to reconsider. God's presence is near, offering transformation, but we must recognize it. Today, ask God to help you see where you've missed his loving presence. Let Jesus' compassion soften the hardened places in your heart.

## **Day 3: Worship Without Full Understanding**

### **Reading**

Matthew 21:1-11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

### **Devotional**

The crowds on Palm Sunday didn't fully understand who Jesus was, yet he welcomed their worship anyway. They waved palms and shouted "Hosanna!" with incomplete knowledge, confused expectations, and mixed motives. This is deeply encouraging. You don't need perfect theology or complete understanding to come before God. He invites your honest worship right where you are. Perhaps you're confused, hurting, or questioning—come anyway. Bring your doubts, your incomplete faith, your messy emotions. Jesus didn't silence the imperfect praise of the crowds, and he won't silence yours. Authentic worship isn't about having everything figured out; it's about showing up fully present before a God who loves you completely. How can you worship more authentically today?

## Day 4: Opening the Temple Doors

### **Reading**

Mark 11:15-18 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’” The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

### **Devotional**

Jesus' cleansing of the temple wasn't a violent outburst but an act of radical inclusion. The merchants had turned the Court of the Gentiles—the only place non-Jews could pray—into a marketplace. Jesus was removing barriers that kept people from encountering God's presence. What barriers exist in your own heart that keep others at a distance? Where have you made faith about transactions rather than transformation, about who's in and who's out rather than God's welcome for all? The King we serve tears down walls and opens doors. He creates access, not exclusivity. Today, consider how you might reflect this same heart—welcoming the outsider, making space for those who feel they don't belong, and removing obstacles that keep people from experiencing God's love.

## Day 5: Pouring Your Heart Into Love

### **Reading**

1 John 4:7-12 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

### **Devotional**

We're often taught to pour our hearts into strength, achievement, or self-protection. But Jesus models something different—pouring himself fully into love. This isn't passive or weak; it's the most powerful force in the universe. The rabbi's story reminds us that we don't have to pretend we're something we're not. We can be fully present, fully honest, fully loved. God's love isn't conditional on your performance or your ability to hide your pain. It meets you exactly where you are. Today, practice pouring your heart into love rather than self-preservation. Be fully present with someone who needs compassion. Show vulnerability instead of strength. Let yourself be loved, and then overflow that love to others. This is what it means to serve a King of love.