

The Inauguration of the King – John 12:12-26

- I. The Savior of Israel is Heralded (12-19)
 - A. Jesus Reveals Himself As Israel's Messiah (12-16)
 - 1. Jesus Enters Jerusalem as the King (12-15)
 - a. Jesus is heralded by the crowd (12-13)
 - i. The word about Jesus had spread greatly
 - ii. All in Jerusalem had heard about Him (v. 17 will tell us that the news of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead brought everyone out of the city to see him)
 - iii. They believed their Messiah had come – he would remove the bondage of the Romans
 - iv. He would set up his kingdom and rule the earth from Jerusalem.
 - v. They expected a conquering king and they were excited about what he would do FOR them.
 - b. Jesus was hailed as the coming King
 - i. Hosanna in Hebrew means “save now” – they were calling for Jesus to save them from their oppression.
 - ii. “blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” is quoted from Psalm 118:25-26 speaking of the coming deliverer
 - c. Jesus rides in on a Donkey (14-15)
 - i. Jesus chose to ride a donkey (14)
 - i. Matt. 21:4- 9; Mark 11:7- 10; Luke 19 show us a more in depth explanation about how Jesus acquired the donkey
 - ii. Luke especially records that Jesus wept as he approached the city because he knew the hearts of the people.
 - ii. Jesus Fulfilled the Prophecy made in Zech. 9:9
 - i. Zech. 9:9 says, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey
 - ii. The people would have been familiar with this prophecy and would have been excited about seeing the fulfillment of it. They thought Jesus was coming to conquer the Romans and save them from slavery.
 - 2. Jesus' Disciples Recognized the Prophecies Later (16)
 - a. The disciples didn't understand all this at first

- i. They knew Jesus was the Messiah and they knew that He was God's Son
 - ii. But Jesus had just told them he was going to die. He told them Mary's offering was for his burial.
 - iii. But now here he was being hailed as the conquering king. Was he the Messiah of Israel or not?
- b. The disciples remembered after his resurrection
 - i. When the Holy Spirit came, He revealed the truth about how Christ fulfilled the prophecies.
 - ii. They understood that Jesus was the king who came to die and save men from their sin
 - iii. He didn't come the first time to save them from the Romans.

B. Israel Misunderstands their Messiah (17-19)

- 1. The Crowd Expected a Political Messiah (17-18)
 - a. Those with him when he raised Lazarus told everyone in the city He had performed the miracle.
 - b. Notice that the text says the reason they came out to see him was because he had done the miracle
 - c. They wanted him to save them from the Romans
 - d. This would be the same crowd that yelled "crucify Him" later that week
- 2. The Pharisees Feared Jesus' Political Influence as Messiah (19)
 - a. The Pharisees also saw Jesus as a political Messiah
 - b. The Pharisees didn't care if He was really the Messiah or not
 - c. The Pharisees Just wanted him out of the way so they could keep their place and their nation.
 - d. They Pharisees were actually sad because they thought Jesus had really come to free them from the Romans- they would lose their authority

II. The Savior of the Gentile Has Come (20-23)

A. The Gentiles Wish to See Jesus (20-21)

- 1. Greek proselytes had also come to worship during the Passover.
- 2. These were people who had converted to Judaism and worshiped Israel's God but were not national Israelites.
- 3. They came to Phillip hoping to see Jesus
- 4. As Gentiles, they were unsure Jesus would see them
- 5. It seems that Phillip even wondered whether Jesus would see them

B. Jesus is told of Gentiles Seeking Him (22)

- 1. Philip was unsure so he told Andrew
- 2. The two went to Jesus together to tell him of the Gentiles

3. Remember the crowd of Israelites were screaming and hailing him as king while all this was going on.
- C. Jesus Declares that His Time has now Come (23)
 1. Throughout John's gospel Jesus has said that his time has not yet come
 2. Now he proclaims that his time is here.
 3. Imagine the crowd when Jesus says "the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified"
 - a. They probably thought he was talking about taking over the city and destroying the Romans
 - b. The Son of Man was the term used in Daniel for the Messiah who would set up his eternal kingdom
 4. This is not what Jesus meant by being glorified.
- III. The Scandalous Call of the Messiah (24-26)
 - A. To Follow Christ is to Die (24-25)
 1. A Seed must Die in order to Bear Fruit (24)
 - a. Jesus says that he will be glorified by his death
 - b. This was not what the people wanted to hear
 - c. They understood that the shell of a seed had to die for the seed to produce life
 - d. Unless Jesus dies – he will forever be alone
 - i. He will go to his father
 - ii. None of us can go to heaven in our own strength
 - iii. Unless He dies in our place he will be alone there because none of us are good enough to go
 2. All Men must Die in Order to have Eternal Life (25)
 - a. We follow the Messiah by dying to ourselves
 - b. Those who love their lives in this life will lose it all
 - c. Those who hate their lives in this life will gain eternity
 - i. Jesus is talking about dying to ourselves
 - ii. We are crucified with Christ and no longer live
 - iii. We either live for ourselves or live for him – there is no middle ground
 - B. To Follow Christ is to Serve Christ (26)
 1. Man Cannot Serve Christ without Following Him
 - a. Jesus is speaking of following him to death
 - b. Jesus is speaking of dying to ourselves
 - c. There is no such thing as a "Christian" who has Jesus as Savior but not Lord.
 - d. Those who follow Christ must die
 2. Servants of Christ are Honored by the Father
 - a. Those who serve Christ in this life are honored by the Father
 - b. Man cannot be right with the Father without going through Jesus.

- c. Man cannot make Jesus into the kind of Messiah he wants
- d. Man must either take Jesus for who he is and serve him, or he will live for himself in spite of his profession