

Palm Sunday Message 2021

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, March 28, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us on this Palm Sunday! Whether you are here in person or online you are most welcome. Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes. As always, we have much to cover in a relatively short amount of time.

SETTING THE STAGE

FYI – I would like to open with an account out of the Gospel of Matthew...

Matthew 16:13–16 (NIV)

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

NOTE 1 – In verse 13 Jesus poses a rather probing question to His inner circle of disciples: “Who do people say that I am?” The disciples—having interacted with the masses on numerous occasions—had a readied series of responses in reply (i.e., ‘many believe you to be John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the prophets’ cf. v. 14).

NOTE 2 – In verse 15 Jesus poses a particularly probing question to His inner circle of disciples: “Who do you say I am?” It would seem that His followers were rather slow to speak in reply—until Simon Peter provides a divinely-inspired response in verse 16: “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”

Q. How did Peter regard Jesus in this instance?

A. He rightly understood Jesus to be the Messiah [Gk. Christ].

Q. What is the significance and meaning of this term or “title”?

A. The Messiah or Christ was the long-awaited king who was prophetically destined to rule the nations. The Old Testament prophets had long foretold of a coming ruler who would preside over the kingdom of God on the earth! Ultimately, Jesus was and remains the fulfillment of this centuries-old hopes...

This raises a vital question, however...

Q. How do you regard Jesus? Who do you say that He is?

KEY – There are many scriptural ways to regard Jesus. We can regard Him as OUR Savior, Friend, Advocate, and more—each revealing something wondrous about Him! However, we do well (particularly on Palm Sunday) to consider Jesus as the God-appointed Christ, Messiah or KING! I would like to explore His kingship from an array of perspectives...

DECLARATIONS OF HIS KINGSHIP

To begin, Jesus' kingship was declared (i.e., proclaimed) as He made entrance into this world...

Luke 1:26–33 (Pre-Conception) (Emphasis Mine)

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the **throne** of his father David, 33 and he will **reign** over Jacob's descendants forever; his **kingdom** will never end."

Luke 2:8–11 (Post-Birth) (Emphasis Mine)

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the **Messiah**, the **Lord**."

NOTE – Even the wise men from the east (i.e., magi) had insight into the kingship of Jesus...

Matthew 2:1–2 (Emphasis Mine)

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born **king** of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

KEY – Ultimately, an array of witnesses from both heaven and earth bore witness to the kingship of Jesus Christ!

DEMONSTRATIONS OF HIS KINGSHIP

Moreover, the kingship of Jesus was demonstrated (i.e., made manifest) in His miraculous works. Consider that the adult life and ministry of Christ was characterized by remarkable demonstrations of supernatural power meant to display His authority, dominion and rulership over all things...

KEY – Jesus' works were meant to demonstrate both His compassion and His power...

1) Jesus Demonstrated Power Over Nature (Feeding the 5k and 4k, Walking on Water, Calming the Storm, etc.)

Mark 4:35–41

35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" 39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

2) Jesus Demonstrated Power Over the Demonic Realm (Casting Out Demons, Breaking the Power of Evil, etc.)

Mark 5:1–13

1 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. 3 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. 6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. 7 He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God’s name don’t torture me!” 8 For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!”

9 Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” 10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. 11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. 12 The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” 13 He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

3) Jesus Demonstrated Power Over Sickness and ‘Affliction’ (Healing the Blind, Deaf, Mute, Leper, Lame, etc.)

Mark 1:29–34

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30 Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. 31 So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town gathered at the door, 34 and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Matthew 8:1–3

1 When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. 2 A man with leprosy[a] came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” 3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

4) Jesus Demonstrated Power Death/Life (“Raised” Jairus’ Daughter, Son of the Widow of Nain and Lazarus)

Luke 7:11–17

11 . . . Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12 As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

14 Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. 16 They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” 17 This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

KEY – Every miracle displayed the power of the One True King and dispelled the authority of the enemy, Satan!

THE PRESENTATION OF HIS KINGSHIP

This brings us to the happenings of Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday was that moment in history wherein Jesus unequivocally announced His kingship to the nation(s). Throughout His life and ministry, Jesus distanced Himself (i.e., publicly) from messianic consideration. On Palm Sunday, He purposefully spotlighted this reality...

Matthew 21:1–9

1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 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. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

5 “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.’” [Zech. 9:9]

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna [i.e., A Hebrew expression meaning “Save Us!” which became an exclamation of praise] to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” [Psalm 118:25, 26] “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Luke 19:37–38

37 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:

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

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Q. What is happening here? What is the meaning of these strange activities?

A. Jesus is purposefully fulfilling prophecy highlighting He was the anticipated king, Christ and Messiah...

KEY 1 – And the people responded in kind! The spreading of cloaks, of palm branches, and impassioned exclamations of praise were precisely how the ancients welcomed kings and/or royalty. Moreover, Jesus’ unique entrance (i.e., riding on a donkey) made His intentions clear—a sign of peaceful intentions!

KEY 2 – This moment was so momentous it must be attested to! Hence the words of Christ to the religious elite...

Luke 19:39–40

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

THE REJECTION OF HIS KINGSHIP

Of course, the student of Scripture comes to understand that many who hailed Him as King rejected Him mere days later. The moment that Jesus made it clear that He would not be the type of king they desired, He was rejected...

NOTE 1 – We must note the conflict between what they wanted and what Jesus offered as king...

The people desired an earthly kingdom – He came to establish a heavenly kingdom

The people desired a temporal kingdom – He came to establish an everlasting kingdom

The people desired the overthrow of Rome – He came to overthrow the power of Satan/sin

The people desired freedom from Rome – He came to offer freedom from sin/consequence

The people desired worldly power & greatness – He came to offer heavenly blessing/favor

The people desired death for their enemies – He came to establish one people in Him

NOTE 2 – In the end, the representatives of the nation would declare they had no king but Caesar (cf. John 19:15)! This rejection would culminate in the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday. The very people Jesus had come to save were the same people who crucified Him.

KEY – How tragic...though this was not the end of the story...

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIS KINGSHIP

Ultimately, His death did not detract from His kingship or bring it to an end. Rather, in the sovereign plan of God it only served to further establish and advance it! His death provided the atonement necessary for our pardon, serves as the means by which we are saved and functions as the mechanism by which we find entrance into His eternal kingdom!

KEY – Ultimately, the kingship of Christ cannot be altered or ended—it can only be affirmed and accepted!

Psalm 2:1–6 (Prophetic re: Christ)

1 Why do the nations conspire
and the peoples plot in vain?

2 The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,

3 “Let us break their chains
and throw off their shackles.”

4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
the Lord scoffs at them.

5 He rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

6 “I have installed my king
on Zion, my holy mountain.”

THE ONGOING EXERCISE OF HIS KINGSHIP

Following His death and resurrection, Christ would return to His Father in glory. To this very day He remains seated at the right hand of God the Father (cf. Col 3:1). In that position of exalted glory, He intercedes continually on our behalf (Rom. 8:34). He also presides over an ever-expanding kingdom comprised of the redeemed.

KEY – As king, He has expressly ordered us to function as empowered representatives of His kingdom...

Mark 16:15–16

15 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Matthew 28:18–20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

KEY – How wondrous...though this is still not the end of the story...

THE COMING EXERCISE OF HIS KINGSHIP PT. 1

We are in the midst of a period of grace wherein the lost are given time to properly respond to His invitation to life by accepting Him as Savior and Lord. Thus, the fulness of His rule and reign is not yet at hand! However, the time will come at His Return for the full exercise of His kingship.

KEY – All that is written concerning the Messiah or Christ shall be fulfilled....

Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

9 “As I looked,
 “thrones were set in place,
 and the Ancient of Days took his seat.
 His clothing was as white as snow;
 the hair of his head was white like wool.
 His throne was flaming with fire,
 and its wheels were all ablaze.
 10 A river of fire was flowing,
 coming out from before him.
 Thousands upon thousands attended him;
 ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.
 The court was seated,
 and the books were opened.

13 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Isaiah 9:6–7

6 For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given,
 and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the greatness of his government and peace
 there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
 and over his kingdom,
 establishing and upholding it
 with justice and righteousness
 from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty
 will accomplish this.

Isaiah 11:1–10

1A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
 from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
 the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
 the Spirit of counsel and of might,
 the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

3 and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
 or decide by what he hears with his ears;

4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
 with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
 with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

5 Righteousness will be his belt
 and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

6 The wolf will live with the lamb,
 the leopard will lie down with the goat,
 the calf and the lion and the yearling[a] together;
 and a little child will lead them.

7 The cow will feed with the bear,
 their young will lie down together,
 and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

8 The infant will play near the cobra's den,
 and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

9 They will neither harm nor destroy
 on all my holy mountain,
 for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
 as the waters cover the sea.

10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

KEY – A time when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever (cf. Rev. 11:15b). We must understand that Jesus Christ is coming back to finalize His rule and reign...

Revelation 19:11–16

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.

THE COMING EXERCISE OF HIS KINGSHIP PT. 2

KEY 1 – The establishment of His kingdom will be a wondrous time for believers. We are told continually to look for our redemption that draws near—the hope we long for! This is a time when our faith shall be made sight and we shall finally and forever be with Him (i.e., a time when all will be made right in this world).

KEY 2 – Yet this coming time offers no hope for the non-believer (i.e., for those who reject Him here-and-now)...

Revelation 20:11–15

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

OUR REPONSE TO HIS KINGSHIP

Q. What do we do in light of the reality of His kingship?

A1. For the believer...

- Heed the Word, directives and commands of the King. Why call Him Lord if you don't do what He says? (Lk 6:46)
- Cultivate a sense of where we are in the midst of His unfolding plan! We have a work to do of winning the lost
- Cultivate a sense of joyful yet sobering anticipation of the King and His Coming (i.e., be more eternally minded)

A2. For the non-believer...

- Accept His lordship in your life. You cannot know Him as Savior without knowing Him as Lord...

Romans 10:9

9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

CONCLUSION PT. 1

Nearly two-thousand years ago Jesus presented Himself as king on Palm Sunday. Nearly two-thousand years later He is still presenting Himself as king on this Palm Sunday. How do we respond? That is a decision you will have to make for yourself!

CONCLUSION PT. 2

Thank you for joining us today. If you wish to give online feel free to do so at www.NewLifeBarre.org. If you wish to give in person there are offering boxes throughout the church facility. May the Lord be with you in this season of Holy Week...

Numbers 6:24–26

24 ““The Lord bless you
and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”