

GOD IS HUMBLE

Part 8 of Knowing God. Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-11.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. March 24, 2024.

HOLY WEEK

Today is the beginning of Holy Week.

- A week to reflect on the events culminating in the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The first event is Palm Sunday - today.
- What does Palm Sunday tell us about God?

THE PROMISED MESSIAH

The Old Testament promises a future King of Israel.

- He will be “anointed” to rule = Messiah or Christ.
- He will rule an everlasting, worldwide, Kingdom.
- He will save Israel and the nations from their sins.

One Messianic promise is found in Zechariah 9:9

- Palm Sunday fulfills the promise.

Zechariah 9:9 (CSB) Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem! Look, your King is coming to you; he is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

MATTHEW’S AGENDA

The Gospel of Matthew shows how Jesus fulfilled OT promises.

- Matthew 21:1-11 describes Jesus fulfilling Zechariah 9:9 on the original Palm Sunday.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ORIGINAL PALM SUNDAY

First, some background:

- Jesus and his band of disciples took several months to walk from Capernaum in the north to Jerusalem.
- Jesus told them that he would be arrested, condemned, and crucified.
- In Matthew 21, they have finally arrived outside Jerusalem.

In the procession, Jesus fulfilled Zechariah 9:9.

- He was riding a young donkey.
- He was welcomed as the king of Israel (2 Kings 9:13).
- He was celebrated by waving palm branches.
- He was proclaimed as “the Son of David.”
- He was recognized as God’s agent. He came “in the name of the Lord,” and the people shouted “Hosanna,”

So, we can say the significance of the original Palm Sunday was ...

- To reveal Jesus as the Messianic Savior, the everlasting King of Israel and the nations, and God in human form.
- What kind of God is Jesus?

THE HUMBLE GOD

Jesus was in Jerusalem to die (as the atoning sacrifice for sins)

- What kind of God lets himself be crucified?
- The apostle Paul offers an answer:

Philippians 2:5-8 (CSB) Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, 6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to

be exploited. 7 Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, 8 he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death — even to death on a cross.

Jesus Christ is the humble God who became one of us and ...

- He served, obeyed, died.
- He did not exploit his divine power and authority, but used them for our benefit.

WHAT GOD’S HUMILITY MEANS FOR US

Jesus explained what his humility means for us.

Matthew 11:28-30 (CSB) “Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am lowly (gentle) and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

- God wants us to know him-“Come to me.”
- God will let us ignore or reject him.
- God does not bully us; he invites us.
- God is a friend of sinners - Matthew 11:19.
- God is lowly (gentle) and humble with us - Matthew 11:29 - which means ...
- God is open and approachable to us - Matthew 11:28-29; John 6:37.
- God is merciful and gracious to us when we falter or fail.

“Whatever is crumbling all around you in your life, wherever you feel stuck, this remains...: his heart for you, the real you, is gentle and lowly” (Dane Ortlund. Gentle and Lowly. p. 216).

SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

READING

- This week, read Chapter 3 of Ingram. Or Chapter 13 of Packer. Or pages 190-197 of Wilson.

GET STARTED

- I will celebrate Easter by...

DIVE IN

- Review the study guide. What were Peter's main ideas, insights, or Bible passages related to God's humility?
- What are some ways people might misunderstand God's humility?
- How can God be exalted while remaining humble? How might your insights help Christians become humble?
- Philippians 2:5-8 contains insights into Jesus' humility— see the verbs used. What are they, and how can we apply them to our lives?
- What is at stake in acknowledging God as humble? What doctrines would be hard to believe if we did not believe God is humble?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Pray for each other.
- Pray for the Cornerstone - people, leaders, health, and faithfulness.
- Pray for the may guests who will attend our Easter worship service.
- Pray for our families, communities, and nation.