



DATE	March 20, 2016
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	King Jesus on a Donkey
SERIES	God the Father could have just let us see Himself, but instead He sent Jesus as a human to reveal the Father to us. Didn't see that coming! Then Jesus was baptized. But isn't baptism an outward sign of an inward spiritual change? Didn't see that coming! Jesus' mission was to be our King and Savior, but He rode a donkey and died disgracefully. Didn't see that coming! And then there was the resurrection. Nobody saw that coming! What does all this mean?

Palm Sunday is a time of celebration every year when we praise Jesus for His divine greatness and royalty. However, the King of Kings arriving in Jerusalem on a donkey is not how we expect the Son of God to make a suitable entrance. There's a lot we can learn from Jesus' example, though, about how we should come before Him in humility and surrender.

1. Have you given up anything for Lent this year? What about in years past? Did your temporary sacrifice—surrendering your vices/desires to God—draw you closer to Him, or were you more focused on what you were giving up? Was your act of sacrifice for Lent just external, or was it internal too?
2. Think back to when you first learned about Jesus and who He is. Did your perception of how God *should* enter the world and make Himself known conflict with how He *actually* did it? Why do you think God would choose to go against humanity's expectations so many times in the Bible?
3. The people in Jerusalem shouted "Hosanna" in praise of their arriving salvation (Hebrew: *hoshi'a na*, Psalm 118:25), but Pastor David explained that the hearts of the crowd were only concerned with what benefitted them. Do you think the crowd's praising of Jesus as their rescuer was genuine? Have there been times when your trust in or praise of God has been situational, primarily concerned with your needs?
4. Compare the account of Jesus' arrival at Jerusalem (John 12) to the passages of Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, and Luke 19:28-44. What additional insight do you gain into the scene from reading these other gospel accounts of Jesus' ride into Jerusalem?
5. Read Philippians 3:1-12. The apostle Paul had a long list of accomplishments. What was his attitude toward his accomplishments in light of his relationship with Christ? Is there anything in your life that you are valuing above knowing Christ Jesus as Lord? What would it take for you to "count them as rubbish" (ESV) in the same way Paul did?
6. We often discuss the spiritual act of surrender in Christian life, but what does it actually mean to surrender? What does surrender look like in your everyday life? How would you explain the idea of surrender to a non-believer who has trouble grasping the concept?
7. Jesus desires to enter our lives humbly. Can you think of a specific situation coming up in which you can purposefully determine to enter into more humbly than you feel like doing? How can you encourage those in your small group to surrender more to God?

When you prepare your heart for Easter this week, remember that sacrifice is both an internal attitude and external behavior that follows. Only then can we fully experience God's victory in our lives.