



A Different Kind of King

Series: Your Kingdom Come #1

Main Text: Matthew 21:1–16

Introduction

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend message and apply it to your life. Choose the questions that work best for your group—there’s no need to go through them all. To learn more, visit silverdalebc.com/smallgroups.

Icebreaker Options

1. When you were growing up, did you ever receive a gift that wasn’t what you expected? How did you respond?
 2. When you think of the word “king,” what qualities immediately come to mind? Strength? Authority? Power? Something else?
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Leader's Note

Palm Sunday forces us to wrestle with a personal question: *Who is Jesus to me?* The crowds praised Him as King—but many rejected Him days later because He wasn't the King they expected. This discussion helps us examine whether we are embracing the real Jesus or a version shaped by our preferences.

Main Points

1. The King Who Liberates Hearts

Key Scripture:

Matthew 21:5 – “See, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey.”

Discuss

- Why do you think the crowd expected a political or military deliverer instead of a spiritual Savior?
- What are some ways you're tempted to shape Jesus into the kind of “king” you want? Political, circumstantial, self help/improvement, etc.
- What does it mean personally for you that Jesus came to liberate you from sin, not just improve your circumstances?

Leader's Note

The people wanted freedom from Rome. Jesus came to free them from sin. His authority is greater than political power—He rules over hearts, death, and spiritual forces. Following Him means surrendering to the King He truly is, not the one we imagine.

2. The Savior Who Cleanses the Temple

Key Scripture:

Matthew 21:12–13 – “My house will be called a house of prayer... but you are making it a den of thieves.”

Discuss

- Why was Jesus so forceful in cleansing the temple? What does this reveal about God's heart?
- In what ways can religious activity crowd out genuine worship and relationship with God?
- If your heart is now the temple of the Holy Spirit, what might Jesus want to cleanse in your life?

Leader's Note

Jesus wasn't reacting in uncontrolled anger. He was exercising rightful authority. The temple was meant to help people seek God—but it had become a barrier instead. Jesus removes what blocks access to God. Sometimes that cleansing is uncomfortable—but it is always loving.

3. The Healer Who Welcomes Everyone

Key Scripture:

Matthew 21:14–15 – “The blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.”

Discuss

- Why do you think the religious leaders were offended by Jesus healing in the temple?
- What does this passage teach us about who is welcome in God's kingdom?
- Are there people you find it difficult to welcome the way Jesus does? What might obedience look like in that area?

Leader's Note

Jesus made room for those others had pushed aside. While religious leaders excluded, Jesus included. The kingdom of God is marked by healing, humility, and childlike praise—not pride or control. If we reflect our King, our lives and our church should reflect that same welcome.

Closing Reflection

Palm Sunday began with praise and ended with a plot. The difference? Jesus didn't conform to their expectations. The question for us is simple but profound:

Have I truly made Jesus my King—or only the King I prefer?

Closing Prayer

Spend time thanking Jesus for being the King who liberates from sin, cleanses what corrupts, and welcomes the broken. Invite Him to reign fully in your heart. Pray for courage to follow Him as He truly is—and for opportunities to reflect His grace to others this week.