



He Is: The King

Date: Sunday 5th April

Speaker: Jon Solway

Key Verses: Matthew 21:1-11

Talk Summary:

You might not have realised but it's the start of Holy Week.

Easter is a celebration of what Jesus did for us by laying down His life and rising again. It's a story of forgiveness, of healing, and of enduring hope, even during the darkest times.

So what's happening here? Jesus entering Jerusalem, Israel's capital city, riding on a donkey. We see crowds gathering and cheering Him on as He enters the city.

So, why is Jesus going to Jerusalem?

Practically speaking – Jesus knew that if His message was going to spread around the world, He had to go to a place with lots of people, where cultures and origins collided, where people would be passing through, and travelling on elsewhere.

But there's also a Kingdom reason

God had always wants a relationship with humanity, but right at the beginning we rejected him – he chose Abraham and his descendants to his special people who revealed him to the world – but they didn't do a great job – so God promised a Messiah – God's chosen King who would rule and rescue his people - the Messiah was supposed to rule from Jerusalem.

So why did Jesus come to Jerusalem? And why was He riding a donkey?

He did it all to fulfil the prophecies about Him (Zephaniah 9:9), to demonstrate that He is the Messiah. He came to be King over all. God had made a promise that He would save Israel, and He answered His promise with Jesus.

So what does this all matter for us? Why is it relevant to us?

As we read on in the Gospels we see that Jesus isn't just the king of the Jews, but of all creation. He didn't just come to save Israel, but to save the whole world, that includes you and me.

Jesus did that by laying down His life on the cross, taking the punishment for our sin, on himself. Jesus –He became the ultimate sacrifice, saving everyone, from everything, for eternity.

But he didn't stay dead. He rose again, He conquered death, He won

The ultimate victory - for all time, over all enemies, over death and sickness, and all other powers and authorities.

What does that mean for us today?

It means that Jesus is in control. In the midst of our world that is suffering with this horrible virus, with all the uncertainty and pain that it brings.

Jesus' entry was the beginning of the greatest story of hope. And His hope still remains today - a hope for a better time, when Jesus will come again and make all things new, transforming every bad thing into good.

He's inviting us to put our trust and hope in Him. How are you going to respond to Jesus' invitation?

Questions for group discussion:

1. What about having a faith are you most thankful for at the moment?
2. Who is Jesus? If you were to describe him as a friend, not in theological terms?
3. What about his character have you been discovering in this current situation?
4. How are we/how can we represent Jesus through our lives in this current situation?

Action:

Think about your friends who don't know Jesus yet, how could you invite them to join in with our Easter service. Maybe choose one to direct message or call, and pray for them this week.

Here are 4 simple ideas for inviting others to the Easter service:

1. Invite them by sharing one of the social media posts that you see ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#))
2. Download this graphic and text it to them with a personal invite ([Downloadable Easter Invite](#))
3. Invite them via our Facebook Event - Easter Sunday Stream:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1356140464581664/>
4. Easter Egg your neighbour! Buy Easter chocolate for your neighbour and attach a handmade card to it, inviting them to service.