

“Welcome to the Family: Introduction to Discipleship at Holy Trinity Church”

### Lesson #3 – Welcome to the Kingdom of Jesus

*From Last Time:*

(1) Follow up on take home work. What were some common feelings you saw in the people in Luke 1?

(2) What does INRI mean? Last time we covered the incarnation (in flesh) of God’s Son, the historical setting of Jesus life, and the importance of the ordinary humanity of Jesus of Nazareth.

**Objective for today:** Jesus was the King of the Jews. Today we want to gain deeper insight into the meaning of “Thy Kingdom Come.” What is the kingdom of God? What were the people anticipating from the OT? What does it mean for Jesus to come to be anointed as King and how does Jesus take charge of this kingdom and show us what His rule is all about?

Opening Thoughts: *If it was announced that on July 4, Jesus was coming to Washington D.C. in order to be appointed President, what would that scene look like? What would be the reactions? What sort of leader would He be? What would you expect Him to do (first, second, in the long run)? Our lesson today is about the meaning of this phrase: “God is coming and He is in charge now.”*

**Palm Sunday story from Matthew 21:1-11** What did the people think was happening?

Let’s look at three significant moments in Israel’s history in the OT which anticipate God’s kingdom:

<b>Place</b>	Eden	Egypt	Canaan	Jerusalem
<b>Leader</b>	Adam	Moses	David	Jesus
<b>Enemy</b>	Satan	Pharaoh	Pagan Nations	Rome?
<b>Time</b>	<i>Beginning</i>	<i>1500 B.C.</i>	<i>1000 B.C.</i>	<i>A.D. 30</i>
<b>Passages</b>	Gen 1:26-27 Gen 3:14-15	Ex 6:2-8 Ex 12:11-13 Ex 14:13-14	1 Sam 8:4-9 2 Sam 7:12-16 Isa 9:1-2, 6-7	Matt 2:1-2 Luke 1:31-33 Luke 1:67-71

What were the people anticipating from the OT?

Isaiah 35:1-10 & Malachi 3:1-5, 4:1,5

What are the sorts of things kings do?

What would you expect of God’s new divinely appointed king of the USA?

What does Jesus think the kingdom of God is all about?

Mark 1:14-17

What does it mean for Jesus to be anointed as King?

Luke 16-21

Messiah (Hebrew OT)

Christ (Greek NT)

Meaning (English) =

**How does Jesus take charge of this kingdom and show us what His rule is all about?**

**He heals** those who need healing - In summary, Matthew 8&9 (leper, Roman, demon oppressed, sick, paralyzed, sin-laden especially 9:1-8, 9-12)

KEY POINT IN MATT 8:17: Fulfillment of Isaiah 53 He took our illnesses and bore our diseases”

**He works miracles** over nature - for example, calming a storm (Mt 8:23-27)

**He celebrates** meals with the unlikeliest of people- Luke 15:2

**He calls** people to follow Him

**He prays** and teaches us to pray to the Father

**He teaches** - often by parables/mystery stories (Matthew 13)

**He dies** - what? why?

Back to Palm Sunday... What do you expect this newly chosen leader to do when He arrives?

**Who is the Enemy Jesus faces?**

The Satan “the Enemy” from the Garden, Also called “Accuser/Slanderer” (Devil)

He accuses God’s people day and night

Discuss accusations/guilt/shame/accountability

**The Meaning of the Cross:** the number one thing people need to know, but that most do not see

The overthrow of the Satan and the dismantling of his kingdom

Fulfilling Adam+Israel’s destiny as God’s priestly kingdom for the world

Representing all humanity in “Passover” like sacrifice

Bearing the sins of all mankind

Freeing us from the slavery of sin, death, and devil

“My Son shall stomp on your head, but you will wound and poison his heel” (Genesis 3:15)

**Message of Isaiah** (Isaiah 53 a key chapter): the people missed or did not comprehend

The King would be the Suffering Servant

***IF TIME PERMITS:*** *Golden cross on the altar: Do you remember what the Empty Cross mean again?*

*Why is it empty?* (OR WE WILL GET TO THIS NEXT TIME)

**Closing:** When we pray “Thy Kingdom Come,” what are we imagining will happen? What are we anticipating? What does it mean for Jesus to take charge of our hearts, lives, church, world?