

# sermon study guide

February 27/28, 2021

## The Week that Changed the World: Come Let Us Worship the King

Dr. Henry Schorr

### IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Is there a public figure you would want to meet? Who is it and for what reason?
2. Worship is about showing/proclaiming the “worth” of God. Which do you find comes most natural to you: Worship through song? serving? study? prayer? being in nature? other? Why?

### UP - PURSUE GOD

Read Matthew 21:1-16

3. Pastor Henry pointed out that the crowd worshipped Jesus for what they believed He could do for them rather than for who He is. How did their wishes compare with the reality of Jesus' kingdom?
4. Read John 4:23. What does it mean to worship God in Spirit and truth?

### OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. How do you keep a God-centred focus and resist a self-centred, consumer approach in worship? What makes this difficult?
6. In Matthew 21 we find the disciples joining in worship by obeying Jesus' commands. Read 1 Samuel 15:22. How is the connection between obedience and worship in your life? What will worship look like in your life this week?

#### **For Personal Reflection/Prayer:**

***Who or what is the object of your worship? The object of your highest affection? What conclusion might somebody observe to be at the center of your life's worship? Reflect on Romans 12:1. What is God saying to you? How is He calling you to respond?***

### THE WORD (NIV)

#### **Matthew 21:1-16**

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.” 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

5 “Say to Daughter Zion,  
‘See, your king comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” 11 The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.” 12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’” 14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant. 16 “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read,

“‘From the lips of children and infants  
you, Lord, have called forth your praise?’”

# sermon study summary

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Pilgrims from all over Israel and beyond gathered in Jerusalem, not only to celebrate the Passover but to see Jesus. They were astonished by His amazing miracles that they had heard about and therefore expressed praise as Jesus entered the city on a donkey. Jesus knew that His time had come and for the first time in His earthly ministry He accepted the public praise. However, the religious leaders were upset and wanted Him to stop the praise. In accepting the praise, Jesus was declaring. "I am your Lord and King."

Whatever we treasure most in life is what we worship (Matthew 6:21). God created us and wants us to worship Him above all else. He knows that if we worship anything or anyone else disappointment will result. Temporary, earthly things cannot satisfy the deepest needs of our soul and thus God desires for us to have fulfillment, joy and peace through worship of Him alone (Psalm 62:1).

John 4:23 says that "true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth." To worship in truth is to worship according to the truth of who God is and to worship in Spirit is to worship from the heart. **God pleasing worship is God-centered.** It focuses on His agenda and who He is. The praise of the crowds during Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was misguided. Although they cried, "Hosanna" which means "Save us, Oh King," they were not looking for a Savior from their sins who would reconcile them to God but rather were anticipating deliverance from Roman oppression. Their worship was based on what they thought Jesus could do for them. The crowds envisioned Jesus to be riding on a white horse, which signified a hero of war. Rather Jesus was riding on a donkey colt. Donkeys were used for peaceful purposes and were seen as lowly but yet noble beasts of burden. Through this Jesus was proclaiming that His mission was a peaceful one that was spiritual and not military in nature. The next day, rather than going after the Romans as the crowds likely hoped for, they were likely shocked to see Him go after the religious leaders and cleanse the temple of their self-centered corruption. The self-centred worship of the crowds was not based on truth. In less than a week they would be crying for Jesus' crucifixion.

**God pleasing worship is daily obedience.** Worship is not limited to a single activity or weekly event. Everything we do that reflects the character and the heart of Jesus and advances the mission and redemptive purpose of Jesus is an act of worship. True worship demands obedience in all areas of life. God's response to Saul's attempt to hide and rationalize his disobedience, was that "obedience is better than sacrifice" (I Samuel 15:2). The heart of true worship is surrender and total dependence on the Lord. Jesus is our greatest example of obedience. He saw the shadow of the cross among the palm branches and yet continued to trust His heavenly Father. He did not get distracted by the adoring crowds and was also able to see beyond the pain, loneliness and humiliation that He endured. Following Jesus' example requires living in humble dependence on His enabling grace and it results in being living vessels of worship to God. Although true worship involves all of who we are, it is not about us. It is all about Jesus.