



# MESSAGE GUIDE

APRIL 13, 2025

## “LIKE NO OTHER-PART 6: JESUS THE KING”



MATTHEW 21:1-11

**RICK GROVER,  
LEAD PASTOR**

We are in week six of our series, Like No Other. What does the Bible teach us about who Jesus is? He is like no other. And in this series, we're looking at Matthew's Gospel to learn all we can about this Jesus who has revolutionized the world. So far, we've looked at Jesus the Paradox, Jesus the Teacher, Jesus the Healer, Jesus the Messiah, Jesus the Man, and this week we are taking a look at Jesus the King!

This is very fitting for us today on Palm Sunday, because we come to the story in Matthew 21, which is the basis for this event which is historically called, “Palm Sunday.”

We all have expectations. There are daily expectations, like the expectation that you are going to get to school or work on time. But there are also times we have certain expectations of the way we think things are going to go or should go, and yet things turn out quite differently, not because what happened shouldn't have happened, but because our expectations were way off the mark.

### **1. DESCRIBE A TIME WHEN YOU WERE EAGERLY ANTICIPATING SOMETHING, BUT IT TURNED OUT YOUR EXPECTATIONS WERE WAY OFF THE MARK?**

Now, let's bring that concept into the historical context of first-century, Roman occupied Israel—the historical setting for the events described in these ancient documents called the Gospels. Below is a picture to help us wrap our heads around how tumultuous life was for the Jews living under the Roman military occupation.

- Israel was an obscure backwater of the Roman Empire.
- There were no benefits of democracy and human rights.
- Jewish politics and religion divided into competing sectarian factions.
- There was no economic prosperity and social mobility for the common Jew.
- Most of the people living under Roman occupation were poor, beaten down, with no hope for peace and a better life.



# MESSAGE GUIDE

APRIL 13, 2025

Is it any wonder, then, why Jews had an expectation for the Messiah to come and be their military and political savior? According to historians—Christian and non-Christian alike—the Jewish expectations for the Messiah in first-century Israel included:

- The Messiah would be a descendant of King David.
- The Messiah would be a military leader who would overthrow Roman rule.
- The Messiah would restore Israel to its former glory.
- The Messiah would establish a kingdom of peace and righteousness.
- The Messiah would be a powerful figure who would bring about a new era of justice and prosperity for the Jewish people.

So, now we're getting one step closer to understanding what's going on in Matthew 21, which we'll unpack in just a moment. So, all these expectations of the Messiah were building up to a boiling point when Jesus comes onto scene. He shows up, and He starts doing Messiah-like things (which we talked about last week). He's teaching like no other. He's healing people like no other. And when the Jewish-Roman conflict is coming to a head, Jesus tells His disciples to:

*"Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once"* **(Matthew 21:2-3, ESV).**

They followed His instructions, and in verses 7-8 we read:

*"They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road"* **(Matthew 21:7-8, ESV).**

And notice how the crowds respond in verses 9-11:

*And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."* **(Matthew 21:9-11, ESV).**



# MESSAGE GUIDE

APRIL 13, 2025

What are they shouting? That this Man riding on a donkey is the Son of David—a Messianic title. Remember the expectation that the Messiah would be a direct descendent of King David? And then they shout a line from one of their old hymns found in Ps. 118. We have to remember that the Psalms in the OT were songs the ancient Jews would sing. And the people cried out, “*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*” (**Psalms 118:26, ESV**).

Notice how the other Gospel writers record this scene:

- “*Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!*” (**Mark 11:10, ESV**).
- “*Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!*” (**Luke 19:38, ESV**).
- “*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!*” (**John 12:13, ESV**).

These were bold declarations that this Person riding on that donkey was THE Messiah—THE KING. The King who comes in the name of the Lord. The King of Israel who will reign over the coming kingdom of David. So, why on earth would they have that expectation—that that Man riding on that donkey was THE GUY?

Because of this ancient prophecy found in one of the minor prophets of the OT—Zechariah. The prophecy, which was quoted by Matthew in 21:5, said: *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.* (**Zechariah 9:9, ESV**).

Questions to consider:

## 2. DO YOU THINK JESUS KNEW THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE PEOPLE?

## 3. IF JESUS KNEW THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE PEOPLE, WHY DID HE STILL CHOOSE TO ENTER JERUSALEM AS A DIRECT LINK BACK TO ZECHARIAH 9:9?

Here’s the key, and it sets us up well to look at some application: Jesus was demonstrating that He was the Messiah, the King who comes in the name of the Lord. The problem was the people had false expectations.

Remember what we talked about earlier? The Jewish concept of the Messiah in the first century was that he would be a king, a political, military savior who would overthrow the Romans, set them free, and establish a



# MESSAGE GUIDE

APRIL 13, 2025

kingdom of peace and righteousness. Jesus was the King who came in the name of the Lord, but He was (and is) a king like no other, and He welcomes us into His Kingdom.

Even the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 gives evidence of what this King was going to be like. He didn't come riding in on a horse but a donkey. A donkey was a sign of peace and humility. Ancient conquerors rode into their cities on horses to symbolize war and conquest. So, imbedded in the actual messianic prophecies of the OT, the Messiah was going to bring peace, not war. He was going to conquer hearts and minds not kingdoms of this world. Jesus even said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). And He would conquer through love, mercy, and sacrifice. But because people had false expectations, they missed the very One who could radically and completely change their lives.

## **4. HOW DOES UNDERSTANDING JESUS AS A HUMBLE KING WHO CONQUERS THROUGH LOVE, MERCY, AND SACRIFICE IMPACT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND OTHERS?**

Maybe we sometimes have the expectations that:

- Jesus the King will conquer all our fears, doubts, addictions, and problems.
- Jesus the King will make sure we never have cancer, we never lose our job, and we never have problems in our marriage.
- Jesus the King will always come through when we need Him on our terms, with our plans, and our expectations.

But then life happens! For the Jews, the Romans still oppressed them after Jesus died and was resurrected. There was still religious and political strife and division. There was still economic and social disparity. And for us, people who follow Jesus still get cancer. They still struggle with addictions. They still have problems in their marriages. And things still don't work out the way we want according to our plans and our expectations.

So, we are really faced with two options:

- You can chuck the whole thing and believe Jesus was just some ancient teacher or miracle worker. To believe in Him as the King of all kings and the Lord and Savior of our lives is just wishful thinking.
- Or you determine that the problem is that you have false expectations, and the issue is not with Jesus but with you.



# MESSAGE GUIDE

APRIL 13, 2025

## 5. WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF JESUS THAT MAY BE MISALIGNED?

Biblically speaking, here's what we can expect from this King like no other:

- Jesus won't stop all the storms, but He will be with us in them.
- Jesus is not a genie in a bottle, but He gives us wisdom and guidance.
- Jesus's agenda is not to make us great or our nation great or our bank account great, but He will make His Kingdom great.

His Kingdom is one of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). And Jesus teaches us to pray that His Kingdom come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. That type of Kingdom, which is like no other, requires a King who is like no other. And His name is JESUS.

## NEXT STEPS:

- If you're ready to learn more about what it means to take your next step with Jesus, text **"FOLLOW"** to 317-707-6462.
- If you would like to explore further what the Bible teaches about Jesus the King like no other, text **"KING"** to the same number, and we will send you a link to an excellent resource.

