

## Mt. 21:1-11 Discussion Questions

1. What is the Kingdom of God?
2. Where do we see the theme of the Kingdom in Scripture? In other words, can you think of any examples in Scripture where you see God acting like a king, speaking like a king, or being called a king?
3. Where do we see Jesus declaring his kingship in this account?
4. This passage is a good example of Jesus revealing his kingly authority.
  - What titles do we use most when we talk about him, those that communicate his authority (Lord, King) or those that emphasize how he serves us (shepherd, savior)? What does this say about our view of Jesus?
  - What are some practical ways that the church submits or should submit to the kingship of Christ?
5. There are three different groups identified in the account, each with their own response: the disciples, the crowd that went with Jesus and before Jesus (these were with Jesus at Bethpage before he got to Jerusalem), and the people of Jerusalem. How does each group respond to Jesus? Pay attention to both what they do and what they say or don't say. What does it reveal about them.
6. How would you characterize your response to the kingship of Jesus?
  - Are you like the disciples who obey?
  - Are you like one of the people in the crowd who is caught up in the excitement of the moment but doesn't really get who Jesus is or walk away when he doesn't fulfill your expectations?
  - Are you like the people of Jerusalem who are curious about Jesus because of his popularity, but are kind of watching from a distance and not ready to join in?
  - In all honesty, each of us is some combination of the above, depending upon the moment or the area of our life in question. When do you find yourself acting more like a disciple? How about like the crowd? How about like the city?
7. Everyone during that time expected the Messiah to come and re-establish the nation of Israel as a geo-political expression of God's kingdom on earth. As we know, Jesus didn't do that. And so by the end of the week the disciples desert Jesus, the

crowds reject him and the city crucifies him. And it's all because Jesus failed to meet their expectations.

- Where do you see the church doing the same thing?
- Where have you done or are tempted to do the same thing?

8. Is there an area of your life where being under the kingship of Jesus has brought you peace and joy? If so, what is it and how has the kingship of Jesus made a difference in that area?

9. In what area of your life are you currently struggling with submitting to the lordship of Christ?

## **Some Examples of The Kingdom throughout Scripture**

The Pentateuch (Gen through Dt): God establishes his rule and realm and appoints his representative rulers by impressing his image on them, like a king impresses his royal seal on something to show its from him. God also makes promises that include land grants, which show his kingly authority over the earth. God saves Israel from slavery and makes them into a nation where he rules as their king. He gives them his law.

The Historical Books (Josh, Judges, 1-2 Sam, 1-2 Chronicles): God leads his people into his land and establishes a physical expression of his kingdom on earth in the Promised Land in the nation of Israel. He rules them as their king until they reject him and demand a human king. Then God gives them one but warns that it will lead to destruction. God appoints David and promises that his line will not end.

Wisdom (Psalms, Proverbs, etc.): God is the king over all the whole earth. He humbles and exalts earthly kings according to his will. He has established the king of Israel's throne.

The Prophets (Isaiah to Malachi): The prophets speak as God's messengers calling the people back to submitting to God's rule by obeying God's law. They predict that God will provide people with new hearts under a new covenant, and that David's son would establish perfect peace and justice and rule over the whole world in God's name.

The Gospels: Jesus announces the arrival the kingdom and he is the king. He is the son of David who will bring peace, justice, and salvation to the ends of the earth. He does this by crushing God's greatest enemy—Satan—and dealing with sin. He also invites people to submit to the rule of God and enjoy the blessings of the kingdom (e.g. the Spirit, deliverance from the power of Satan, new life, etc.) even while living in this fallen world.

Revelation: Jesus returns as the triumphant king to consummate the kingdom that he inaugurated during his earthly ministry. He will fulfill all of God's covenant promises to his people.