

**Matt 21.1-17**

Clint Le Page

Main Point – Praise Jesus the King who brings peace

When was the last time you shouted?-----

Maybe you shouted in **anger**,(SLIDE) at your parent or your child; at that driver on the road; or umpire at the footy. Not that I'm endorsing that.-----Maybe you shouted for **help**(SLIDE).-----But what I'm thinking of is rather, when was the last time you shouted in **joy**?----(SLIDE)

Maybe when your team got a goal, or you won the game?-----

Or when you got a good mark on your exam?-----

Back in July we were told in Psalm 95 to,

'shout joyfully to the Lord, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation';

and that shouting joyfully could mean loud singing.-----

When was the last time you shouted-out praise to God?

Or sung to your Saviour n' King so loudly your neighbour might have heard?-----

For that's what we see happening today.-----

And as we see people praising Jesus, I hope we'll be inspired to do that too.

It was in April that we were last in Matt's Gospel and finished ch20.(SLIDE)

And we'll look at chapters 21-25 until early December.-----

What happened in ch20?-----

Jesus had predicted his suffering, death n' resurrection in v18-19.

He'd told his disciples that authority is about service, and Jesus himself came to serve, v28.

He'd serve by giving his life as a ransom for many.-----

And now it's the week before his death, the last Sunday before he'd die on cross, and he enters Jerusalem.

**My first point is,(SLIDE) the Coming of the King.-----**

This is the first of 4 points, structured around 4 O.T. scriptures.-----

Jesus is with the 12 disciples, and others including the 2 recently healed blind men.

They approach Jerusalem – where Jesus had said he would die and rise.

He'd been here before, but this will be the last, and this Sunday would come to be called Palm Sunday.

All four Gospel's have an account of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

In Matt 21v2 he tells two disciples to go and bring a donkey and her fowl or colt.

And if they're asked about this, they're simply to say, 'The Lord needs them'.

We don't know whether Jesus arranged this earlier or just knew the future and what was needed in that moment.

But for the one who is Lord and God, such divine knowledge is no problem.-----

The disciples do as they're asked and bring the donkey and her colt.

And **v7**, Jesus sitting on 'them' is not saying Jesus sat on two animals at once, but he on the clothes.----Mark, Luke n' John's Gospels all speak of only one animal, Matthew mentions two, yet Jesus likely rode mostly on the colt as **John 12.14** tells us.

But Matthew mentions the two to make clear Jesus' fulfilled the OT prophecy.

Matthew quotes **Zechariah 9v9,(SLIDE)** from the Greek translation of the OT, slightly different from this.

It speaks of Israel's King coming to Jerusalem on a donkey, and on a colt, a young donkey.

This is a Messianic prophecy, a prophecy about God's promised King and Rescuer coming into Jerusalem.

Entering not on a war horse, but a donkey.-----

In **1Kings 1** King David is old(SLIDE) and he arranges for Solomon to be paraded through the city streets on a donkey.

It was a time of peace and David was announcing that Solomon was the next rightful King.

Now here we have Jesus announcing that he is the rightful King.-----

But he's a King of peace.

He's the Prince of Peace [Isa 9.6], who rides a lowly animal.-----

Jesus is great yet humble. He is exalted yet lowly.-----

Remember he's the one who in **Matt 11 said (SLIDE)** I am lowly and humble in heart, come to me and you will find rest for your souls.-----

He is the Messiah and King, but not winning with armies, battles n' war against the Romans. He's a King who will lay down his life to serve, and save.

Lay down his life to bring peace, enable peace between God and humanity.-----

**In the 1860's missionary John Paton in his 40's**, is in the New Hebrides(SLIDE) Vanuatu.

In his autobiography he tells of a time on the Island of Tanna, when the local tribes are all preparing for war, and fear sat on every face.

Paton and his team are at the centre because one group wants to kill them and the other drive them away, and drag up old grievances.-----

The great Inland Chief Ian rose in wrath and said, 'On whose land does the Missi (the missionary) live, yours or ours? Who fights against the worship and all good; who are the thieves and murderers, who tells lies, you or we?-----

We wish for peace but you will have us war...', and the land Missi lives on was stolen by you.

Meeting after meeting happened with angry speech and many threats.

Paton was brought to the next meeting and asked to speak. The chief said, 'Just say the word and the muskets of my men will sweep all opposition away'.

And Paton replied, 'I love you all alike. I am here to teach you how to turn away from wickedness, to worship and serve Jehovah, and to live in peace. How can I approve of any person being killed for me or for the worship. My God would be angry with me and punish me if I did'.

Ian replied, 'Then you will be murdered and the Worship destroyed'

Paton writes, 'I stood in the middle of them and cried, "You may shoot or murder me, but I am your best friend. I am not afraid to die. You will only send me sooner to my Jehovah God whom I love and serve, and to my dear Saviour Jesus Christ, who died for me and you, and who sent me here to tell you all His love. If you will only love and serve Him you will be happy..."'

Paton turned to leave and the chief thought he'd be killed.

Then two men from the other side said, 'Missi's word is good! Let us all obey it. Let us all worship.'

Paton was allowed to live on his land in peace, and the two men brought a present of food as a peace offering to the Chief, who accepted it.-----

John Paton helped two tribes make peace in Vanuatu.-----

But bigger than that, and better than that, is what our Lord Jesus did.

Christ died to be the offering n' sacrifice so we could get peace with God.-----

Our sin separates us from God and makes us his enemies.

We and all people the world over are sinners needing peace with God.

And Jesus was our mediator n' sacrifice who brought peace, lasting peace.-----

For us sinners, Jesus was coming into Jerusalem.

For us Jesus came into Jerusalem, where he was arrested, crucified, buried, then raised from the dead.-----

Jesus has come, and laid down his life to bear the punishment for our sin, so that we could be forgiven and reconciled to God.

This is for every person who trusts in him.-----

Have you found peace?

Peace with God, through trusting in the Prince of Peace Jesus?-----

And if you have, like Christ are you a peace-maker?-----

Gentle, humble, and seeking peace in your relationships?-----

## **Point 2 is Praising the King**

Jesus rides the young donkey into Jerusalem, and notice what happens.

A very large crowd, **(SLIDE)** a great multitude spread their clothes on the road, **v8**.

It's like a red carpet for royalty, but this one's a cloak carpet.

Others are cutting and laying down tree branches.

John 12 tells us they were palm branches.

And the crowds ahead of him & following him shouted:

**Hosanna to the Son of David.**-----

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Like the two blind men in 20.31, these masses of people are shouting to Jesus, calling him the Son of David.

In **2Samuel ch7**, God promised King David that one of his descendants would rule over God's kingdom forever.

So 'son of David' had become a Messianic title, referring to the Promised King.

They are praising Jesus as King.-----

Who's come from God and been blessed by God.-----

The word 'Hosanna' had become an expression of praise.

But literally, from the Hebrew it means 'Help, I pray' or 'Save I pray'.

Like the quote from **Psalms 118v25**, 'Lord, Save us'.

So it's ironic that the Jews praise Jesus as the King, and v10, the whole city's in uproar, thinking n' hoping he'll save them from the Romans.

But what Jesus will actually do is save people from their sin.-----

So he is not the King or Saviour most people want.-----

For in a matter of days, when the crowds see Jesus arrested, beaten, and on trial before the Roman governor Pilate, they will shout 'Crucify him, crucify him' (27.22).--

The crowds don't accept Jesus as he is, but do you?-----

Have you cried out for Jesus to save you?-----

From the judgement you deserve for rejecting God's rule?-----

And if Christ died to save you, do praise him for that?-----**(SLIDE)**

He's more than a prophet v11, who speaks words from God.

Jesus has come from God, is himself God, and came to bring you into relationship with God.-----

If you know that, will you praise him?

If so, How?----- When?-----

If we say or pray, "I praise you God", do we mean it?----- Is it real?-----

Should you sing it, proclaim it, say it out loud, or inwardly; or shout; or bow, tremble, rejoice, or all of that?-----

The Word of God is the perfect starting point for praise.

Let the truth about God and what he's done in Christ sink in.

Think about who Christ is, what he has done and will do, and by God's grace you'll be moved to praise, to sing and maybe sometimes Shout.-----

We don't want to be hypocritical in our praise and fake it, but nor do we want to let our feelings or lack of feelings limit us.

Praise comes because Christ IS my Saviour & King, not cos I'm feeling good.-----

Could you praise God for something when you speak with a non-Christian.-----

This last week, I resigned my **Essendon** membership, due to their treatment of **Andrew Thorburn(SLIDE)** who was CEO for 1 day before being forced to resign.

And Thorburn expressed, 'today it became clear that my personal Christian faith is not tolerated or permitted in the public square'; and that the media and society's leaders made clear 'that my Christian faith and my association with a church are unacceptable in our culture if you wish to hold a leadership position in society'.----

There is a clash of gospel's going on in our culture.

We have the secular Gospel, a false religion, which claims freedom and fulfilment, joy and identity, is found in individual self-expression, especially sexual self-expression.

Many people seek the kingdom without the King Jesus, where the individual rules on the throne, and people worship themselves.

Whereas Andrew Thorburn openly proclaimed that 'I am a Christian'.  
He shared that he loves all people and has always promoted and lived an inclusive, diverse, respectful and supportive workplace.

Yet he also declared, **(SLIDE)** 'my faith is central to who I am. Since coming to faith in Jesus 20 years ago, I have seen profound change in my life, and I believe God has made me a better husband, father and friend,... and a better leader'.

Thorburn gave praise to Jesus, and I hope we'll be willing to also.

Willing to declare that we Jesus is our King who gives true fulfilment, true peace, and real change.-----

Please pray for Thorburn, City on a Hill church, for us and our nation.-----

### **Next, briefly, we see the Passion of the King.(SLIDE)**

**V12** Jesus enters the temple and he throws out all those buying and selling;  
he overturns the tables of the money-changers and those selling doves.

These business dealings were going on in the outer court of the temple, called the Court of the Gentiles.---

You'll see on this **map** of the temple Herod completed.

The Court of the Gentiles is the only place non-Jews who worshipped God could enter n' come near to God in prayer.

And Jesus says, quoting **Isa 56 (SLIDE)**, that it should have been devoted to that.----

But it had been turned into a market.-----

To avoid people transporting their animals on long journeys by foot, people could pay for animals to sacrifice at the temple.

Also, when people wanted or needed to give money to the temple they couldn't use foreign currency.

Their money had to be changed to specific money, which could be donated to the temple and priests.-----

Picture a court filled with workers n' sellers.

Noise, manure and smells would have filled your ears, eyes and nostrils

- Not easy to focus on God.----

Jesus also calls the place a den of thieves – quoting **Jer 7v11**.

They'd been robbing the Gentiles of the right to worship God.

And they'd been ripping people off with greedy overcharging.

It all needed to stop.----

So with righteous anger, Jesus stops their business and kicks them out.----

He throws out the buyers and sellers, but interestingly welcomes the blind and lame, **v14**.----

Jesus expels those the authorities permitted, and permits those the authorities would have expelled.

In this act Jesus declares his authority as King, as God's appointed King.-----

And so he has the right to call the temple leadership & Jewish leaders to account.----

He makes clear the temple should be and should've been a place of peace and prayer.-----

Jesus shows real passion for God and God's priorities.

He shows passion for people, even non-Jews being able to come near to God.

And to pray to God.-----

I wonder if we make the most of our opportunities to pray?

Are we passionate for what matters to God?----

You praying matters to Jesus, so How might you prioritise prayer?-----

Prayer isn't just done when sitting down intentionally, head bowed.

Maybe you could more often chat with God; give Him a status update, "God I'm really loving meat pies today."

We might "message" God when little things come up, to share, or seek his help.

Or maybe you need to spend 1 on 1 quality time with God, whether it's for 5 mins or 30 mins.

And maybe you need to plan that into your calendar with a reminder?-----

**1 Thess 5** tells us, 'Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'-----

Sometimes our phones have no signal, maybe like in this building 😊 Sometimes the internet is down, but we know God is always “online” and keen to hear us. Pray for greater passion for what matters to God.-----

### **Final point is, Kids praising the King.(SLIDE)**

With those devoted to money-making thrown out, and the crippled n’ needy welcomed in, and healed by Jesus, notice what happens next.

**V15** there’s children in the temple shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David’.

Heaps of children shouting praise to Jesus the King.-----

Like a super GSF, or a huge Colin Buchanan concert.-----

You’ve probably heard the saying, ‘Children should be seen and not heard’.

Well not here and not for Jesus.-----

Jesus welcomes children singing his praise, shouting his praise.-----

The Jewish leaders are indignant, angry, at all this commotion.-----

I love it that the children are not held back.

Even with leaders being angry n’ grumpy they don’t stop shouting joyfully to Jesus.

Young kids are wonderfully not held back by others’ expectations or peer pressure.

Kids can just speak the truth to others so openly and honestly sometimes.

If they want to shout out praise to Jesus they do.-----

More than once **I’ve been at the shops** and seen n’ heard a child singing a Christian Colin Buchanan song, loudly, happily, unashamedly,

“Jesus is the mighty mighty king; God made him the boss of everything”.

Hearing children sing praise to Jesus is wonderful, isn’t it?-----

And I think Jesus wants us to learn something from their example.-----

The religious leaders want Jesus to put a stop to it and he won’t.

In fact he says, what they’re doing fulfils **Psalm 8v2.(SLIDE)**-----

The praise of the little ones is perfect, and God-inspired.-----

Kids, how does Jesus want you to praise him?-----

My wife Kirsti teaches primary school students at a Christian school.

Last term she entered a Grade 1 classroom and heard this class of Grade 1’s singing praise out loud to Jesus, and it brought tears to her eyes.-----

Parents do you help your kids praise Jesus, say by giving up the talk-back or Smoothie FM in the car to sing with Colin Buchanan?-----

Maybe as a teenager you think you’re past that, but can’t you praise him with your ear buds in and the Christian music on?-----

If you know Jesus has brought you peace with God, now and forever, how do you wanna respond?-----

Whether online, or to your friends, your family, or in your room on your own?-----

Do you thank God when something good happens, when you had a good day, got a good test result, someone was kind to you, or you remember the eternal relationship with God you have?-----

Praise Jesus with your words and from your heart – and KNOW that he is pleased with that.

Because of Jesus the King, we can have peace now and even when we face death.----

### **In 2013 19yo Zac Young was surfing off at Coffs Harbour when a 3m Tiger Shark attacked him.**

His friends tried to fight off the shark.

As his friends dragged him to shore, Zac, a committed Christian, prayed, "Please God, my Lord and Saviour, help protect my friends and help me through this time of need'. He then went unconscious."

His 18yo friend Kurt said, "He passed away peacefully, no pain, with his last words to me being: 'I love you brother'".(SLIDE)

Zac couldn’t be revived and died after Ambulance officers arrived.

Kurt said, "He was loving, compassionate and always happy ... I can't remember a time he wasn't smiling."

Zac's brother said, "You were loved by so many because you loved too much. A smile so big it tears through a saddened heart."

After his funeral service at his church up to 400 surfers gathered at the beach in Port Macquarie, (**SLIDE**) and joined in prayer.-----

Even in death Zac was trusting in and praying to the Lord.

He could die in peace because he had peace with God and knew where he was going.-----

I hope we can all praise God that we have peace with Him.

And King Jesus who brings that peace, deserves our trust and our praise.-----

In life, in death, in sickness and health, when better or worse, richer or poorer, we have a wonderful Saviour who deserves our praise.

Will you praise him?-----

Let's pray.