

Jesus is Messiah - Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 24:44-49
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

They had been waiting a long, long time. To understand the Messianic expectations for the First Century Jewish person we have to understand two forces that had been at work for centuries. First, the people were an oppressed people group, constantly living under the authoritative thumb of an evil dictator and empire. The rulers and kingdoms had changed (Babylon, Persia, Greece, Seleucid, Ptolemy, Rome), but the fact remained that they had not truly been a free people for generations. Any people group with this sort of national story would long for freedom, looking for the day when some ruler or group would overthrow the wicked rulers oppressing them. But for Israel there was a second major factor that shaped their view of themselves and their hopes. They believed in the True and Living God, and this God made promises about a future ruler who would be anointed to usher in a reign of peace and justice. The Old Testament is full of references to this future person who would eventually come ushering in God's Kingdom on earth. By the time of the birth of Jesus the hopes and expectations for this King were at a frenzied level, and several people before had been more than happy to self-proclaim as the Messiah who would overthrow Rome. Yet, their stories ended the same, they were crushed by the Roman army and their followers were crucified.

Enter Jesus into this moment and world. We call Him Jesus Christ, but did you know that Christ is not Jesus' last name. No, he was not the son of Joseph and Mary Christ, his little brothers James and Jude Christ. They did not run the Christ family carpentry shop. Christ is not a name, it is a title. Christ is the Greek word that translates the Hebrew word "Messiah". And to call someone "Christ" is saying something profound and specific about that person. The word "Messiah" (or Christ) literally mean "the anointed one." As we read the Old Testament we actually find multiple people who had been anointed by oil to set them apart for a God-given task. Kings were anointed at their coronation and priests anointed when they entered their service. And even prophets received an anointing from the Lord to speak His very Word. But for these people, the anointing was limited for the task, and temporal. Meanwhile, for hundreds of years the promises of a future King who would come from David's family tree and who would usher in God's True Kingdom were penned by prophets and Psalm writers. So much so, that these prophets, writing between 1000-400 years before Jesus was born wrote out a full description of a solitary human life that would one day be lived in Israel's history. Yet, there were difficult aspects to understanding these prophecies, pictures, and promises about the future Messiah. For example, on one hand He is pictured as a ruling King whose Kingdom would never end (Isaiah 9), yet on the other hand He is pictured as a suffering servant who would be crushed like a sacrificial lamb (Isaiah 53, Psalm 22). By Jesus' time, the longing for the king had taken precedence so that the people almost ignored the prophecies of suffering or had determined that this had to be a different figure than the conquering King.

But now we can see both the promises and the One promised clearly. One of the key beliefs we need to understand about Jesus is that He truly is the promised Messiah, the Christ, the anointed one sent by God to usher in His Kingdom. In His human life Jesus embodied the story predicted by these inspired writers. Born in Bethlehem, his birth pronounced by angels, fleeing to Egypt, healing people, dying on the cross between thieves, buried in a rich person's tomb... The life of Jesus fulfilled as many as 324 different prophecies found in the Old Testament. But the Messianic promises are more than just about a human life hitting the key points of a prophecy chart. These are actually a reminder that all of Scripture is ultimately about Jesus, pointing us to Him as our hope and salvation. His entrance into history means that the Kingdom of God has come, that in Jesus we now see what it means for God to rule in our lives and on earth. The issue is so much deeper than evil human kingdoms, the true problem lies in every human heart. The people looked for a human king who would overthrow Rome, believing that if a Jewish ruler who held their values ruled the world became the Emperor, well, my politics are definitely the answer to the world's problems, right? What they missed was that

each new empire and ruler proved a basic point. All human kingdoms fail because the king and those around them are sinfully wicked, as are the people they rule. No, Christ's Kingdom is something altogether different (but I am getting ahead of myself, more on that in the coming weeks). For today, what we need to see is the connection between the promises of a person anointed by God would be our savior, sacrifice, and King. When we call Him Jesus Christ we are declaring that Jesus is in fact the Messiah, the One who fulfills all of the prophecies, promises, and pictures from the Old Testament about the one person who would arrive in our story to redeem us. This also reminds us that Christianity does not offer a set of beliefs, a life-style, or system of religious rituals. The Gospel offers us a person and tells us when we repent of our sin and attempts to gain God's favor through our own efforts, and we trust in Jesus as our Savior and King we will find redemption. He is Jesus Christ!!!

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Numbers 6	Numbers 7	Numbers 8	Numbers 9	Numbers 10	Numbers 11	Numbers 12

Reading from this past week: Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 24:44-49

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: John 18:33-38, Philippians 2:9-11

Family Worship

Song - *Jesus Messiah*

<https://youtu.be/tdxSC1tHJn0>

Gospel Project

Unit: Encounters with Jesus

Story: Jesus told Nicodemus about eternal life.

Big Picture Question: How do we know God loves us?

Answer: We can know that God loves us because He gave us Jesus to forgive the sins of the world.

Scripture: John 3

New City Catechism

Question #16: What is sin?

Answer: Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, not being or doing what he requires in his law.

Verse: I John 3:4

Scripture

Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 24:44-49

- When you think of the word "Messiah", what image does it create in your mind?
- Why do you think the majority of Jewish people missed Jesus as the Messiah even though He did fulfill the prophecies?
- What are some current human "Messiahs" people in our culture trust to give them purpose, make sense of their lives, or give a form of salvation?
- What are some of the prophecies, promises, and pictures from the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled in his life, ministry, death, and resurrection?
- What exactly are we declaring when we say that Jesus is the Christ or Messiah?

Prayer

*Praise God that the Scriptures clearly point us to the promise of a Messiah, and that Jesus completely fulfilled all of those promises.

*Pray for your Elders and their wives.