

PALM SUNDAY 2023

“Two Kind of Jesus”

Reading: John 12:12-19

JESUS CLAIMS

- ➔ Save Sinners.
- ➔ Establish His Kingdom.

TWO IDEAS

Sin is not first a MORAL Concern.

Sin is an AUTHORITY Concern with MORAL implications.

His Kingdom is not a place we go when we die,
but a way of life made available here and now.

Zechariah 9-10 NIV

9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

10 I will take away the chariots from Ephraim

and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

VIOLENCE & THE WAY OF PEACE

- There is a tension of peace and violence in this whole encounter and exchange.
- We live in a world where force or threat of force is what ultimately gets stuff done.
- Violence is often the most natural overflow of disappointment or threat.

JESUS IS CONFRONTING A WAY

Jesus is confronting a fundamental way of doing things— of doing everything.

We can easily overlook how disruptive Jesus is... we can try to avoid it or ignore it... or even exercise our own authority over His. This is where sin finds it hold and its power.

John 18:35-38 NIV

35 “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

38 “What is truth?” retorted Pilate.

“But the divine way is different. Jesus takes temptation, hatred, curses- the bitterness of a bitter world- and he absorbs it into himself on the cross. Jesus, pronounced guilty as a blasphemer for claiming to be the Son of God, demonstrates on the cross that he was speaking the truth, by doing what only Son of God could do- loving his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end, the bitter end.

And this pattern, acting out uniquely on the cross, becomes then for us, by the Spirit of Jesus working within us, the pattern we are commanded to live out, as we give back good for evil, blessing for curse, prayer for persecution.

One might say that this is the vocation of the Church: to take the sadness of the world and give back no anger; the sorrow of the world, and give back no bitterness; the pain of the world, and not sink into self-pity; but to return forgiveness and love, blessing and joy.

That is what Jesus was doing on Calvary. He drew on to himself the sin of the ages, the rebellion of the world and humankind, the hatred, pain, anger and frustration of the world, so that the world and humankind might be healed, might be rid of it all.”
(NT Wright)

I want you to consider your life?

- Your idea of JUSTICE—>
- Your idea of FREEDOM—>
- Your idea of TRUTH—>
- Your idea of POWER—>

What would it be like for you to find a sense of wholeness within yourself...
with others...

with the way you interact within the world?

How will you determine which Jesus and which way?