

# Small Group Sermon Response

**Title:** "The Humble King of Peace"

**Text:** Mark 11:1-11

**Date:** Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024

**Preacher Bio:** Peter Worrall, a faculty member at Moody Bible Institute, brings a distinct blend of theological depth and engaging teaching style. His background from Devonshire, England, enriches his approach, combining historical insight with practical applications of biblical truths.

## Recap of Previous Message:

Previously, the sermon focused on Jesus' practices of solitude and prayer in **Mark 1:35-39**, emphasizing the importance of balancing personal spiritual disciplines with active ministry.

## Introduction:

This sermon delves into **Mark 11:1-11**, where Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a colt showcases His humility and the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, contrasting with traditional royal entries and emphasizing peace and servitude.

## Discussion Questions:

### 1. **Jesus' Entry on a Colt (Mark 11:1-7, Zechariah 9:9):**

*Reflect on the Prophetic Significance and Humility:* Consider the deep symbolism in Jesus choosing a colt for His entry, as prophesied in Zechariah 9:9. Discuss how this humble mode of transportation contrasts with the might and grandeur often associated with kings and leaders. What does this tell us about Jesus' approach to power and leadership? How does this humble entrance challenge our own expectations of divinity and authority?

### 2. **Fulfillment of Prophecy (Mark 11:1-11, Psalm 118:25-26):**

*Understanding Jesus as Messiah:* Delve into how Jesus' entry into Jerusalem ties to the messianic predictions in Psalm 118 and other Old Testament scriptures. How do these fulfilled prophecies enhance our understanding of Jesus as the promised Messiah? Discuss the significance of recognizing Jesus in light of these ancient texts and how it shapes our faith and understanding of God's overarching plan.

### 3. **Jesus' Peaceful Kingdom (Mark 11:1-11):**

*Symbolism of Peace and Humility:* Contemplate how Jesus' choice of a colt, a symbol of peace, contrasts with a conquering king's horse, symbolizing war. What does this tell us about the nature of Jesus' kingdom and His approach to power? How does this reflect the values of peace, humility, and servant hood in the kingdom of God, and what implications does it have for us as followers?

### 4. **King Jehu's Entry vs. Jesus' Entry (2 Kings 9-10):**

*Contrasting Leadership Styles:* King Jehu's entry into Jezreel was marked by force and

assertion of power. Compare and contrast this with Jesus' peaceful entry into Jerusalem. How do these two different approaches to leadership inform our understanding of authority and influence? What can we learn about God's desire for leaders from these two examples?

## Application Questions:

### 1. **Finding Guidance in Prophecy:**

*Applying Prophetic Insight in Personal Life:* Considering the fulfillment of prophecy in Jesus' entry, how can we seek and find guidance in the prophetic aspects of scripture in our personal faith journey? Discuss ways to interpret and apply biblical prophecies to modern life experiences and decision-making.

### 2. **Embracing Humility in Leadership:**

*Incorporating Jesus' Model into Our Lives:* Explore how we can embody the humility Jesus demonstrated in our own leadership roles. What practical steps can we take to integrate this humility into our daily interactions, decision-making, and approach to guiding others, both within the church and in other spheres of influence?

### 3. **Responding to Jesus' Call:**

*Active Engagement with Jesus' Teachings:* Reflect on the recognition and response of the people of Jerusalem to Jesus. How can we actively engage with Jesus' teachings and his call in our lives? Discuss ways we can demonstrate our recognition and acceptance of Jesus through our actions and choices.

### 4. **Understanding Spiritual vs. Worldly Power:**

*Learning from Different Leadership Styles:* By examining the contrast between Jesus' and King Jehu's approaches to leadership, what insights can we gain about spiritual authority versus worldly power? How can these lessons inform our understanding of leadership within the church and broader community contexts?

## Closing Thoughts

Reflect on "The Humble King of Peace," considering the themes of humility, servant leadership, and prophetic fulfillment. Contemplate integrating these lessons into our daily faith and life practices.

## Psalm Sunday

1. **Processions with Palm Leaves:** The procession with palm leaves is a reenactment of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, as recounted in the Gospels. During this event, the crowd greeted Jesus by waving palm branches and laying them on His path. In Christian churches, this procession symbolizes welcoming Jesus as the King and Messiah, mirroring the actions of the people in Jerusalem. It is a public declaration of Jesus' kingship and His peaceful approach to it.
2. **Distribution of Blessed Palm Leaves:** The palm leaves distributed during the services are typically blessed by clergy, turning them into sacred objects. This blessing is a reminder of the sanctity of the event being commemorated. The palms become a tangible connection to the

story of Jesus' entry and a symbol of His victory over sin and death.

3. **Saving and Burning the Palms for Ash Wednesday:** The palms saved from Palm Sunday are traditionally burned to create ashes for the next year's Ash Wednesday service. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a period of penitence and fasting leading up to Easter. The ashes, made from the joyous palms of the previous year, symbolize mortality and repentance. They serve as a reminder of the need for penance and humility in the Christian journey.
4. **Folding Palm Fronds into Crosses:** Some Christians fold the palm fronds into crosses and keep them in their homes. This practice serves as a personal reminder of Jesus' journey towards the crucifixion and resurrection. The cross, made from the palm frond, connects the triumphant entry of Palm Sunday with the Passion of Christ. Keeping these crosses in homes serves as a year-round symbol of faith and a reminder of the central events of Christian salvation history.

## Additional Reading

- **"The Toxic War on Masculinity: How Christianity Reconciles the Sexes" by Nancy Pearcey**
  - **Publisher:** Baker, 2023, **ISBN:** 9780801075735
  - **Summary:** Nancy Pearcey addresses the controversial perceptions of masculinity in modern culture. She explores the rising narrative that deems masculinity as destructive, countering it with the argument that committed Christian men, based on empirical studies, show the highest engagement and love in familial roles and have the lowest rates of divorce and domestic violence. Pearcey emphasizes that Christianity, contrary to being a cause of toxic masculinity, actually holds the potential to heal and reconcile gender relationships. The book provides an empirical and theological exploration of how Christianity reshapes the narrative of masculinity in a positive and constructive way.