

Recognized as King

Read Matthew 21:1-11

Though Jesus was a most unlikely-looking king, His kingship was occasionally recognized. We're looking at a few of those times.

Very early in Jesus' ministry, before He had even called His disciples, two of His future disciples recognized in this unknown peasant God's great king. In telling his brother Simon about Jesus for the first time, Andrew said, "*We have found the Messiah*" (John 1:40, NASB). And later the same day, Nathaniel told Jesus, "*Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel*" (John 1:49, NASB).

The most public display of Jesus' kingship was His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Here was a man who was normally silent about His identity. He even warned those He healed not to spread the word about Him. But now He arranged His own parade (Matthew 21:1-5). He intentionally portrayed Himself as Israel's conquering deliverer by entering on the donkey, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9 (Matthew 21:4-5). The people openly received Him as Messiah, their deliverer King. They shouted:

"Hosanna to the Son of David." (Matthew 21:9, NASB. "Hosanna" means "Save now!", and "Son of David" refers to Messiah)

"Blessed is the coming Kingdom of our Father, David." (Mark 11:10, NASB)

"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord." (Luke 19:38, NASB)

Their praise to Him as King was so compelling and God-ordained that Jesus told the Pharisees, "*If these become silent, the stones will cry out!*" (Luke 19:40, NASB)

Why did this One who normally avoided talk about His being Messiah now want it shouted from the rooftops? Notice that Jesus consistently and intentionally coupled His Messiahship with His suffering. In Matthew 16:13-23, once the disciples confessed that He was Messiah, He immediately told them that He would suffer and die. Again here in Matthew 21, He intentionally tied His Messiahship to His suffering. He approached His imminent death as a triumphant, conquering hero.

Jesus didn't want people to label Him as "Messiah" outside of the context of His suffering and death. And He wanted them to see His suffering and death as part of God's foreordained plan for our salvation. In other words, only by seeing Jesus as both Messiah and Suffering Servant would they truly understand who He was, why He had come, and what God was doing through Him.

Hymns: [See the Servant](#) or [Who Is He?](#)