

# Behold, Your King

Matthew 21:1-17



## Authorities in our Lives

What authorities have you chosen in your life? What authorities didn't you choose?  
How do you handle being under authority?  
What role does God play in your life?

## Ancient Jewish Worldview

Most important & powerful place on earth: Jerusalem, and the Temple  
"The political, economic, and religious heart of first century Judaism"  
Most important time of the year: Passover  
They were waiting for the "Messiah" to come  
Jesus' journey in Matthew: This is Jesus' first time in Jerusalem

## Matthew 21:1-17

1-11:

Jesus intentionally came like the promised Messiah (Savior from God), like a reigning king  
From obscurity...who had to borrow a colt!

12-13:

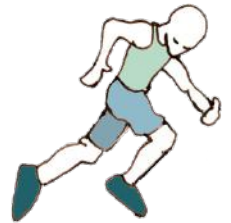
Jesus entered the temple (most important place)  
→ Deliberately confronting the powerful  
Claiming authority over the worship of God  
"I tell you that something greater than the temple is here." Matthew 12:6

14-15:

They were angry that Jesus was claiming authority *over the temple*  
And that Jesus was accepting praise *in the temple*

16-17:

Rather than resolve their concerns, Jesus stirred up and accepted this praise as God



## Who is He?

Jesus came humbly yet boldly **to the place of highest power**  
and claimed the right to rule over all

Jesus comes humbly yet boldly **to each of us** and claims the right to rule over all

His suffering and death **proved His love**

His resurrection **proved His authority**

In cartoons, as long as you don't think about gravity, you don't have to follow it  
Sometimes we act as if...

Dealing with God is optional. We think: If we ignore Him, He'll ignore us

He is fooled by nice words and no action

As long as our consciences don't bother us (too much), we think we are fine

But...

"My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. **It is the Lord who judges me.**" 1 Corinthians 4:4

Jesus claims the right **to rule** and **to judge**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

Matthew 16:24-25

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God. 1

Corinthians 4:5

The most important question for each of us: Who is Jesus?

Lord / Liar / Lunatic / Legend / Irrelevant / Distant & Distracted

## Application

### Decide what you'll do with Jesus

He is arguably the best human being

His resurrection is an astounding historical reality (the best explanation for the facts)

He claims the right to rule over every life

Will you...

Walk away?

Deny His authority?

Bow to Him as King?

### Submit to Jesus as God

He comes to us and claims highest authority over each part of our lives...step by step

Money: rich young ruler

Injustice: Philemon

Suffering: Job

Relationships: disciples must love Jesus more than parents, spouse, kids, ...

Time / Emotions / Sexuality / Dreams / ...

### As an expression of His love!

### There can be no better king!

- Jesus fully submitted to His Father
- In humility, He made Himself nothing
- Then died in our place, being rejected for us
- Now He gives us the riches of His reward
- All as an expression of His love for us
- He will return to reign and to judge

Will you humbly bow before this king in submission to Him?

---

## Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What have you decided to do with Jesus? What has brought you to that place? Are there still questions that you have? How will you pursue answers to them?
2. Are there areas in your life that you have submitted to Jesus? What is the story that led up to that point, and what is the story since that point?
3. Are there areas in your life that you hesitate to submit to Jesus, or that you try not to think about His perspective? Why do you hesitate? What will the road ahead be? What steps will you take?
4. What prompts you to give praise to Jesus as king?

---

## Conversation Starters

How do you respond to Jesus? What have you done in response to His claims to be God and King over all?