

Which JESUS?
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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Next Sunday is perhaps the most celebrated of all special and holy days in the world of people who call themselves Christian.

Many Churches will have their highest attendance of the year coming this next Sunday.

It is, year after year, one of the highest attendance days here at Lighthouse: as well it should be.

We will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead!

What greater event, what greater truth could possibly call for a celebration than the Resurrection?

This one is so big that we actually celebrate it every week! That is why we worship on Sunday instead of the weekly Sabbath which is Saturday; because the first day of the week is the day on which Jesus rose from the dead.

We also mourn His crucifixion, as we remember the pain and agony which Jesus suffered in our place; which also we do remember every week as we observe the Lord's Supper.

But we celebrate the Resurrection!

The Resurrection is the first-fruits of the greatest promise Jesus ever made to us:

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Depending on how folks are raised and what they are seeking in life, people see Jesus in many different ways.

To some He is the "man upstairs"; not really in their world, He is just out there somewhere in case they should ever need Him.

To some He is just another religious name among many others to which they are willing to give a pretended respect but really just don't believe it.

To others He is a Historical figure that somehow became exaggerated all out of proportion because "everyone knows" the things said of Jesus are impossible.

These same things were true in the days Jesus walked among men.

Our text today takes place within the last week before Jesus was crucified for our sins.

John 12:1-2 & vs. 9

1 Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

2 There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. And then in verse 9 it says...

... 9 Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead.

Here in this part of our text, we see:

I. Jesus the Celebrity.

A. Jesus was famous like no other ever before Him because of the miracles which He did.

1. Jesus had raised others from the dead before Lazarus.
2. Only this one was different: of the others one might say, "Well, maybe he wasn't really dead"... or "maybe she was just asleep".
3. But not this one: this guy Lazarus had already been buried for more than three days and was already starting to stink.
4. I can just hear the talk down at the local inn; "Hey guys, That Nazarene is in town and they are having a dinner for Him over at Mary and Martha's house...and Lazarus is going to be there!"
5. Another guy says "I gotta see this!"
6. Another says, "I just don't believe it".
7. Another says, "Well, I believe it! Me and nine other guys were lepers, when we saw Jesus coming through town we all cried out to Jesus, 'Master, have mercy on us!' He turned and looked at us and told us to go show ourselves to the priest...we didn't understand, but we went anyway...and as we went we were all cleansed of our leprosy!" "Harleycaus and Darrylonius, you guys saw me back then how my flesh was decaying and falling off my body; I don't even have scars now!"
8. "Ok, let's go. Maybe He will do something cool and we'll get to see it."

9. People from every walk of life, even kings, saw Jesus as a celebrity and desired an audience with Him.

Luke 23:8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long *season*, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.

B. Jesus is still the biggest celebrity the world has ever known.

1. Today people will turn out by the thousands to come see 'The Jesus Show'.
2. They want to see the sensational Jesus.
3. They want to see the miraculous Jesus.
4. They want to see the magical Jesus.
5. The call of our day is "Come, celebrate Jesus!"
6. And many make big business of doing just that!

Within our text today, we also see:

II. Jesus the King.

John 12:12-15

12 On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

13 Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed *is the King of Israel* that cometh in the name of the Lord.

14 And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written,

15 Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, **thy King cometh**, sitting on an ass's colt.

A. Jesus is the coming King!

1. **Micah 5:2** But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me **that is to be ruler in Israel**; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

3. Who is not tired of government corruption?

4. Who is not weary of seeing our elected officials serve themselves instead of serving the people?

5. Who is not tired of all the bickering and the lying and the accusations; who does not dread the next major election?

6. Yes sir, I'm way past ready for Jesus to run this world.

B. Those Jews we are reading about were even more ready than us.

1. We are not living under Roman tyranny: they were.

2. At least our taxation has some representation: theirs was at the whim of the Emperor.

3. We are not being pulled out of our homes and tortured: although many in the world today are.

4. They wanted to live in peace; they wanted justice and freedom like we all do: well, all except those who already held the power.

Much later in our text today, we will also see:

III. Jesus the Sacrifice Lamb.

A. The plan of the ages is that God would provide Himself as sacrifice for our sins.

1. **John 1:29** The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

2. Genesis 22:7-8

7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?

8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering:

3. Jesus is that Sacrifice Lamb that all of those Old Testament sacrifices foretold.

4. Plainly stated, Jesus did not come to be celebrated, He did not come to be crowned King...although all those things will and do take place in their proper time.

5. Plainly stated, Jesus came to die.

6. The Lamb of God has one overriding purpose: The Lamb must die.

B. Jesus is many things.

1. He is our famous and very celebrated friend: truly the most celebrated person the world has yet seen.

2. Jesus is truly a King; He is our King already: someday He will rule this world in righteousness as He hath said.

3. He is our Lord, He is our Master, He is our Creator...but most important to each of us who truly know Him, **He is our Savior!**

C. Being our Savior cost Jesus His life.

1. **John 19:14-19**

14 And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

15 But they cried out, Away with *him*, away with *him*, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led *him* away.

17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called *the place* of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

2. **Mark 15:27-39**

27 And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left.

28 And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.

29 And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest *it* in three days,

30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.

31 Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save.

32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.

33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?** which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

35 And some of them that stood by, when they heard *it*, said, Behold, he calleth Elias.

36 And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put *it* on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down.

37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

Conclusion:

When Jesus healed the multitudes, when he raised the dead, when he fed thousands with a couple of loaves and a few fishes...He was surrounded by multitudes with thousands proclaiming His glory.

When the people thought Jesus was going to set up His kingdom and lead them to rebel against Rome; although that will someday come; thousands bowed down to Him, they laid their clothes in His path, they cut palm branches for Him to walk on.

Yet when Jesus died for our sins, it brought out a somewhat smaller crowd.

John 19:25-30

25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, **Woman, behold thy son!**

27 Then saith he to the disciple, **Behold thy mother!** And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.

28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, **I thirst.**

29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth.

30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

It seems that things have not changed all that much.

Jesus the celebrity can still draw a crowd.

As well He should! He is amazing! He still does amazing things!

And come next week and every week, Lord willing, I will celebrate Jesus!

Yes, Jesus is my King! I will sing His praises, I will bow down before Him, I will honor Him with my giving and I will exalt Him in every way I can...and will probably be quite noisy about it.

But I will also come back to the cross. I will stand and remember what Jesus did to save me: I will face my flawed and worthless condition and I will acknowledge the price it took to pay my debt.

Even If I am standing with only two or three...or even if I must stand alone...I will never forget the One who met my greatest need.

Worshipping the Savior acknowledges that you are a sinner and thus you need one.

The Celebrity, The King or the One who can save you from your sins?

Which Jesus will you come to worship?

My hope is all three, but especially the One who went to the cross for you!