



SPORTS IN FOCUS

ROYAL PRONOUNCEMENTS

Matthew 21:8-11 • Lesson Ten

ZOOM!

READY

- When you think of Jesus do you think of Him as king? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is indeed the King of kings?

SET

Context of Matthew 19-23

In this section of Matthew's gospel we see Christ as the King of heaven, who is rejected by His own people. Jesus is moving relentlessly toward the hour of His suffering and death. The hostility of the Jewish leaders is growing. Every event and conversation in these tense, final days affords the Lord one more opportunity to shine the light of God's truth into the world's darkness.

Keys to Text

Christ is King: In ancient times the coronation of a monarch involved the display of great splendor and pageantry. The king would be dressed in the most expensive robes and jewels and would be driven through his capital city in an ornate carriage drawn by stately horses. Every part of the ceremony was designed to highlight the majesty, glory, power and dignity of the king. Jesus was affirmed as King and was, in a sense, inaugurated into His kingship. But here was no pomp, no splendor, and only a brief sort of pageantry.

GO

Read Matthew 21:8-11

And most of the multitude spread their garments in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees, and spreading them in the road. And the multitudes going before Him, and those who followed after were crying out, saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest!" And when He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?" And the multitudes were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee."

1. In your own words, summarize the attitude of the multitude along the road.
2. Many people today are open to a Jesus who they think will give them wealth, health, success, happiness, and the other worldly things they want. Like the multitude at the triumphal entry, they will loudly acclaim Jesus as long as they believe He will satisfy their selfish desires. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

SPORTS IN FOCUS

LeBron Raymone James nicknamed "King James," was a three-time "Mr. Basketball" of Ohio in high school, and was highly promoted in the national media as a future NBA superstar while a sophomore at St. Vincent – St. Mary High School. At just 18, he was selected with the number one pick in the 2003 NBA Draft by the Cleveland Cavaliers and signed a shoe contract with Nike before his professional debut. Now that he has joined the Miami Heat along with superstar teammates Dwight Wade and Chris Bosh, many believe he will finally rule the NBA. No doubt fans outside of Miami want no part of LeBron's kingdom. Likewise, not every in Jerusalem wanted Jesus to rule the kingdom either. Most of the people we read about in Matthew's gospel wanted Jesus on their own terms. They would not bow to a King who was not of their liking, even though He was the Son of God. They wanted Jesus to destroy Rome but not their cherished sins or hypocritical, superficial religion. But he would not deliver them on their terms, and they would not be delivered on His. www.nebraskafca.org