

The Story of Jesus

Part 29: Discover Your True Identity [Thumb- Who Are You?]

Mark 11:1-11 - [watch online](#)

Summary: We find out true identities when we see Jesus for who he really is.

Key Thoughts:

1. [00:53] We are all on a quest to discover who and why we are.
2. [01:54] The identities we've made for ourselves are more fragile than we know.
3. [02:49] Jesus claimed to be the only source of our true identity and purpose.
4. [03:19] If we allow ourselves to see who Jesus really is we'll discover who we really are.
5. [05:24] Jesus claimed to be God's promised King.
6. [07:01] Jesus invites us to participate in his kingdom.
7. [08:36] Jesus' kingship inspires worship
8. [10:35] Jesus isn't the kind of King we expect.
9. [11:30] If we don't allow Jesus to transform our expectations he won't transform our lives.
10. [14:10] If Jesus is King then he is King over everything.
11. [16:14] Our true identity is found in the Kingdom of God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read over this week's "Key Thoughts." What stands out to you? What thoughts/questions come to mind?
2. Besides faith, what are some things we commonly use to create our identities?
3. Read Colossians 1:15-22. How could "seeing" this Jesus change how you see yourself?
4. What are some ways you can see Jesus as "King over everything" this week?
5. How can your group pray with you this week?

WE: We are all on a quest to discover who and why we are.

We want to find our place/people...

- Family/ friend groups/music scene/hobbies
- Our culture/heritage/country

We want to be a part of something more.

- So fun with sports teams (we won... you did nothing but watch commercials so they could make more money)
- Why many people get so into politics... have a side that believes a lot of the same things as you
- We're drawn to causes, passions, and movements that resonate with our hearts

But... and you've seen this maybe experienced this first hand...

If something happens to shake the identity we've created for ourselves... we are lost.

- Lose job/relationship and don't know who you are?
- Realize you'll never achieve that dream that defined you for so long?
- Mid-Late life crisis

The identities we've made for ourselves are more fragile than we know.

Now 2000 ago a peasant from a small Jewish village named Jesus of Nazareth stepped onto the scene and claimed not to just have the answer we're looking for but to BE the answer we're looking for.

He said he was bringing the KoG

A kingdom where each of us discovers our own identity and meaning.

And then brings those together to create a community where we realize our true humanity together...

- Begin living a true life of love, peace, imagination, beauty.

And that sounds really great, but the part that got Jesus in trouble was he didn't claim to be just teaching about the KoG or showing us the way to the KoG...

He claimed to be the way to KoG and claimed to be the King of KoG.

He said that through him we would find true life, who we really are, and true meaning for our lives.

Jesus claimed to be the only source of our true identity and purpose.

And around 70 AD, an ancient writer named Mark recorded for us A. Peter's account of his time with Jesus...

And near the end of the story Jesus has been making his way to Jerusalem for the final week of his ministry, the final showdown between Jesus and the religious and political establishment...

Everything we have seen so far in the story has led to this moment...

And at this crucial point we see... if we allow ourselves to see who Jesus really is we'll discover who we really are.

GOD: V. 1-3 Better trans- When THEY approached... Jesus, disciples, crowd (including Bartimaeus).

Like a pilgrimage going to Jerusalem.

Passover time. A time when the Jewish people celebrate the God who rescued them from Egypt.

- A time to celebrate freedom

And as they approach, Jesus knows now is the time to declare to everyone that once again God has heard his people, and has come to rescue them.

He sends two disciples to get a young donkey for him to ride on as he enters the capital city.

And we think... is he tired or something? What's up with the donkey theft Jesus?

This is rich in imagery that would make sense to the first century Jewish mind...

Jesus is purposely living out Jewish prophecy...

- Gen 49:10-11

- Zech 9:9-10

We don't have any other recorded time that Jesus rode anywhere. He's been walking this whole time... this is completely on purpose.

Jesus claimed to be God's promised King.

And this is made even clearer when the disciples go do what he told them

V. 4-7 The disciples obey and it's just as Jesus said.

They find the donkey, tied to the front door... nice eyewitness detail there.

The neighbors are like, "What the heck are you doing? That's Carl's donkey."

Disciple's say the Lord needs it and the neighbors are like.. Oh ok cool.

Might have been pre-arranged might not have but look at the authority Jesus assumed...

Tell them the Lord needs it... Lord/Master/lord

He's either saying...

- I, the master, need it...
- God needs this donkey... God needs it for me to do God's mission
- I, God, need this.

And think about it... if it's prearranged he could have had someone just meet him on the road with the donkey...

And if he just knew it would be there then he could have just made the donkey walk to him... which would have been even more impressive.

But he asked his disciples to get the donkey... to play a part in this story... he didn't need them but he wanted them to be a part of it.

And they obey and make it happen. Jesus invites us to participate in his kingdom.

And since the colt had never been ridden it didn't have a saddle so the disciples play out their role by making a saddle for the King out of their cloaks.

And what happens next is one of the clearest pictures of who Jesus actually thought he was and what he claimed to be... it's become what is celebrated every year the Sunday before Easter as Palm Sunday...

V. 8-10 This is the moment everyone has been waiting for...

Jesus is finally and publicly declaring that he is the Messiah, the Savior, the Chosen one, the King God promised to send to his people.

And the crowd, that has been following him from even before Jericho, knows exactly what this means...

See...

You don't lay your coat (that your mom/wife made you from scratch) on the dry, stony, dusty middle eastern ground to be walked on by a young pooping donkey for just a good teacher/philosopher/friend, or charismatic speaker...

This is something you do for royalty.

You don't cut branches from the nearby fields and wave them around shouting just b/c you're feeling happy or having a good day...

- You do it to welcome the King.

These people clearly understand Jesus is presenting himself as Israel's true king and this is his royal reception.

Jesus' kingship inspires worship

He's the true king... God keeps his promises... God sees us... and has everything under his control.

And they shout Praise God...

- Hosanna- a Hebrew word that can mean a mixture of jubilant praise to God with the prayer that God will save his people now.

And in their chant they quote **Psalm 118:25-26**

This is our king... who comes in the name of God. He will sit on the throne of David... a throne God had promised would never end.

And what does Jesus do? Rides his donkey in the middle of it... accepting all of it.

Every other time someone has understood who Jesus really is he has told them to be quiet.

- Even when demons tried to blow his cover he told them to shut up

But now... He doesn't tell them to stop... he accepts it.

- Shoot! He purposely made it happen.

As one commentator put it... this is blatant messianic self-advertisement.

Jesus knew exactly what he was doing.

And Jesus enters Jerusalem... the king has come... and then... **V. 11**

A little anticlimactic... but what we see is a picture of a king surveying his kingdom

He looks at everything that is going on in the Temple.

- Takes careful mental notes...
- Hmm We're going to have to do something about this...
- Then says something like... "That was fun. It's been a big day. Let's get some rest."

The people were probably feeling a little let down... they thought this was the moment the king entered Jerusalem he has come to the temple... let's go!

Not what they expected the king to do on his first day...

But then again... Jesus isn't the kind of King we expect.

They were expecting Jesus to come in and free them from the Romans

But he didn't come on a war horse... he came on a lowly donkey

He didn't come with weapons but with love, acceptance, peace.

He didn't come with an army... he came with disciples who were learning to act/speak/live like him

He wasn't establishing a new dynasty; he was ushering in the eternal KoG.

- God reigning in the hearts and minds and lives of his people
- Changing them from the inside out into a community that reflects the love of God to the rest of the world.

Transition:

And listen, just like the people in the crowd... we can be interested in Jesus, we can even celebrate him but not really get who he is...

When it becomes clear Jesus isn't going to do what they expect him to do, almost every one of them except a few women and a disciple will abandon him to die alone.

If we don't allow Jesus to transform our expectations he won't transform our lives.

Many of us expect Jesus to be like a magic genie that makes our lives better if we rub the lamp the right way or say the right magical words

- And when things don't go the way we want... we say... hey this doesn't work like I expected.
- Get disillusioned/mad
- But Jesus didn't claim to be a genie, he claimed to be the king... what are you going to do about it?

We expect Jesus to be a cultural warrior/political king

- Help us take over the country so everyone believes and behaves the way we think they should.
- Jesus didn't run for president/start a political podcast... He declared himself King... what are you going to do about it?

We expect Jesus to be a spiritual vibe giver.

- We sing the songs and we feel something to get us through our week
- Jesus didn't come to be a spiritual hype man... He came to rule... what are you going to do about it?

We expect Jesus to be a moral teacher:

- Showing us the way to live better lives and be better people.
- Jesus didn't come to be a life coach/philosopher... he said he came to be the King... what are you going to do about it?

We expect Jesus to get us out of hell:

- Jesus didn't say he came to be king someday when we die so follow him to get to the kingdom someday.
- He said the kingdom of God is here now and he is the King... follow me... What are you going to do about it?

YOU: Jesus clearly declared himself King... what are you going to do about it?

Three options...

1. Ignore/Reject it... That's a choice he leaves you.
 - But then what? How do you answer who you are? What is your identity built on? How do you determine your purpose for living?
2. Join the parade... go to church/sing the songs/do the bible studies and hope he gives you what you want... but go on living your regular, normal life.
 - You will be disappointed.
 - You will build your identity on what you can get from Jesus and when you don't get it... you will be disappointed, disillusioned, lost.
3. Accept Jesus as King.
 - Pledge allegiance to him and his Kingdom and let it change our lives.

Not taken lightly. **If Jesus is King then he is King over everything.**

- King of your time, money, possessions, family, career, future, hopes, dreams, goals, choices, relationships

To pledge allegiance to King Jesus is to say Jesus is King of every part of my life.

- We hand over everything we are
- And then he guides you to create a life and create an identity based solely on him as you use what he has given you to live out your true purpose and role in the KoG.

Once we accept Jesus as our King there is no going back to normal.

And for 2000 yrs that's what has been happening...

The crowd may have abandoned Jesus after his arrest...

But after his death he appeared to over 500 of them alive again.

And their lives were changed forever... b/c they finally realized Jesus' true identity as King of the universe.

WE: Every other thing we use to create an identity and purpose for ourselves leaves us wanting.

If your identity is in being a parent... kids will grow and move away
Career? Church? Religion? Wealth? Politics? Education?

It will all fade at some point... the only thing that lasts forever is the eternal Kingdom of God.

And when we accept the true identity of Jesus we discover an identity we can never lose... Child of God... follower of Jesus.

Imagine.. No matter what is happening in your life... You know who you are and what your purpose is?

- No matter how old?
- No matter what have/don't have?
- No matter what does/doesn't happen?

You can be confident and at peace b/c you know who your king is and who you are in his kingdom.

That is the life the true king offers each and every one of us. **Our true identity is found in the KoG.**