

John 12:12–22 – “The Suffering King”

Our worship must be in the Jesus Christ revealed in God’s word, not the one who fits our expectation, or a religious construct.

The Biblical World – Understanding the Context:

The Old Testament predicted a Messiah who would be both a *Suffering Servant* (Isaiah 53; Psalm 22) and a *Reigning King* (Psalm 2; Daniel 7). Many Jews couldn’t reconcile those two roles and expected two different Messiahs—one who would suffer and one who would reign. By the first century, Israel longed for political liberation from Rome, not spiritual redemption from sin. Yet Jesus came not on a war horse, but on a humble donkey, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9 and proving that His kingdom is established through humility, peace, and sacrificial love.

Passage Outline

- **I. The King We All Need. (vv. 12–15)**
 - **II. Jesus according to the Scriptures. (v. 16)**
 - **III. Unstoppable Testimony of the King. (vv. 17–22)**
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Passage Notes

I. The King We All Need. (vv. 12–15)

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds cried, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” expecting a political deliverer. But Jesus came as the Lamb of God—to bear sin, not overthrow Rome. Riding a donkey revealed His mission to bring peace and bear burdens, not to destroy enemies. Religion wanted a different Jesus, one who met their expectations. Yet the true King came to save through suffering and to lead by humility.

II. Jesus according to the Scriptures. (v. 16)

The disciples didn’t grasp the significance of Jesus’ entry until after His resurrection and glorification. Only then did the Spirit open their understanding to connect the prophecies with what had happened. Likewise, God often works through us before we fully understand it. Spiritual insight grows as we obey

and spend time in His Word. Obedience opens the door for revelation, allowing Scripture to come alive in everyday life.

III. Unstoppable Testimony of the King. (vv. 17–22)

Those who witnessed Lazarus' resurrection boldly testified of Jesus' power. Their witness drew multitudes to meet Him—even Greeks seeking truth. The Pharisees admitted in frustration, "Look, the world has gone after Him!" The testimony of the true King cannot be silenced. His gospel still draws people from every nation.

The Modern World – Relevance Today:

Our world, like ancient Israel, reshapes Jesus to fit its desires—turning Him into a political figure, moral teacher, or miracle worker instead of the Savior who died for sin. But only the Jesus of Scripture saves by grace through faith alone.

The World of the Congregation – Applying This Passage Today:

Many today seek comfort over truth and religion over relationship. We must guard our worship against false versions of Jesus by knowing the Word, obeying the Spirit, and living out His humility and grace before others.

What This Means for Us

- ***Because our King leads through humility and burden-bearing, we extend His kingdom by living the same way.***
 - *Where do we need to display humility?*
 - **→ Remember the sufferings Jesus endured for us, and extend peace and love to someone who doesn't deserve it.**
- ***Understanding increases where obedience and devotion create space for the Spirit to work.***
 - *Do we think obedience doesn't matter?*
 - **→ Live in the power of the risen Christ, to become a testimony of His truth and an instrument for His purposes.**
- ***Because Jesus' testimony is unstoppable, we must faithfully share the true Jesus.***
 - *Who do you know that needs that Gospel?*
 - **→ Point people to the Jesus of Scripture—the One who gives eternal life simply by believing in Him.**