

REJECTED KING*

Though tritely lauded at the Triumphal entry, the Jews ultimately rejected Jesus as their rightful King.

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
John 1:1-13 John 7:37-53 Matthew 21:1-11 Luke 19:28-40 John 12:12-19 Matthew 21:23-27 Matthew 21:33-46 [John 12:1-11 [§]]	All Glory, Laud, and Honor (French) SATB All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name Come, Christians, Join to Sing Fairest Lord Jesus He Is Lord (“He is King”) King of Humility (Koerts) SATB Rejoice, the Lord Is King See the Christ Who Is He in Yonder Stall



NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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* Theme corresponds to **Palm Sunday** in the **Jesus the King (Matthew)** series.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

§ This Scripture reading is best used only with the “Judas Rejects” theme approach below.

PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

JUDAS'S REJECTION

Matthew 21:6-11; (cf. John 12:1-11) 26:47 | *On Palm Sunday, crowds celebrated Jesus as the Son of David, crying, “Hosanna—save now!” They were ready for a Jewish king and wanted Jesus to set up an earthly kingdom. Judas was walking in that crowd, too. Why did Judas want to betray Jesus? Jesus wasn’t the power-grabbing insurrectionist the people wanted. Instead, He spoke of being crucified. Judas may have wanted Jesus to assert His power. Whatever His reasons, Jesus willingly accepted public rejection for the sake of our salvation.*

Promotional Post: Why did the Jews reject Jesus? Why did Judas? Why does anyone? This Palm Sunday we remember the short-lived excitement of the Triumphal Entry and the ultimate rejection of Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. Prepare for worship with these passages:

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

Jesus entered Jerusalem on what we traditionally call Palm Sunday to the worship of an energetic crowd. The people of Jerusalem waved palms and shouted “Hosanna to the Son of David! Save now!” These people were ready for a Jewish king. After centuries of oppression from outside governments, they wanted Jesus to use His power to set up an earthly kingdom—for *them*.

Judas was walking in that crowd, too. Why did Judas ultimately reject Jesus? He likely had the same misplaced priorities as the rest of that sad generation of Jews. A few days later, Mary the brother of Lazarus anoints Jesus’ feet with precious ointment—worth something like a year’s wages for a lower class Jew at the time. Judas in particular objects. “This could have been sold and given to the poor!” John’s gospel is quick to add that Judas actually had personal plans for that money. But His objection reveals His heart. “Jesus should *take* power,” he thought, “not *relinquish* it, not *waste* it!” The Gospels tell us this was the “final straw” for Judas. It was after this event that he began plotting with the Jewish leaders to betray Jesus.

Why did the Jews reject Jesus? Why did Judas? Why does *anyone*? They want Him to be what *they* want Him to be. They want Him to “dance to their tune,” Jesus says earlier. They want *Him* to follow *their* plan. What is the irony? That’s not what a real King does! Instead of submitting to Jesus, most of the Jews of His day rejected Him.

Jesus knew where all of this would lead. He could have stopped the events that led to His death. But He willingly accepted public rejection for the sake of our salvation. Today in worship, we can empathize with His rejection. But ultimately, we worship Him as the King who can do whatever He chooses. And we humble ourselves, our plans, our wills, before Him.

(Caleb French)