



“If I Were King”

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, ‘Hosanna!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Blessed is the king of Israel!’ ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵ ‘Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.’ ¹⁶ At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.” John 12:12-16 (NIV)

I. Jesus wants to be in the driver’s seat.

- a. The little known secret to victory in life involves surrender.
 - “Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.” Matthew 10:39 (NIV)
 - “Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” John 12:24 (NIV)
 - “Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.’” Luke 9:23 (NIV)
- b. Understanding surrender.
- c. Why is this not popular?

II. Jesus wants the best for you!

- “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” John 10:10b (ESV)
 - “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” John 15:11 (NIV)
 - “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” 2Cor. 12:9 (NIV)
- a. Why you cannot will yourself to victory in life. (see Luke 9:23, Romans 12:1-2)
 - b. Surrender almost always includes an external event.

Palm Sunday

Pastor Jay Passavant

March 31-April 1, 2012

III. Jesus calls us to be specific in our surrender.

- a. General choices.
- b. Some specific illustrations.
- c. This is the pathway to fullness and purpose in your spiritual life.

Conclusion: Even Jesus faced this critical decision

“Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.’” Matthew 26:39 (NIV)

Small Group Questions

1. Why did the people reject Jesus as their king? (John 12)
2. Why do we find surrender so difficult?
3. Can you name one or two specific areas that your are willing to seek surrender in? What are they?
4. What blessing might result if you handed Jesus the keys in those areas? When will you do so?