



## We Want A King | Ethan Matott | 3.15-16

### Weekly Study

#### SHARE

Welcome, Red Rocks, to a brand-new series called “Holy Week.” This series is a buildup to Easter Sunday, highlighting the significance of everything that took place leading up to Jesus’ crucifixion and His resurrection three days later.

In our first week, we step into one of the most dramatic and misunderstood moments in history—Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The people were ready for a king, but not the kind of King Jesus came to be. They wanted a warrior to overthrow Rome, not a Savior who would lay down His life.

This same tension is still alive in our hearts today. We want Jesus—but on our terms. We desire a King who fixes our problems, yet we resist a King who asks us to surrender.

- What was your biggest take away from this message and how has that been impacting you since hearing it?**

#### GROW

##### Read 1 Samuel 8:4-9

Israel had a unique relationship with God—He was their King. But they wanted something different. They looked at the nations around them and demanded a human king, rejecting God’s rule over them. God warned them that this desire would lead to oppression, corruption, and disappointment, yet they insisted.

- Why do you think Israel wanted a human king so badly, even after God warned them?**
- In what ways do we, like Israel, sometimes reject God’s rule in favor of something else?**

This wasn’t just an Old Testament problem. It’s a condition of the human heart, “We Want a King Syndrome.” We reject God’s authority and chase after leaders, power, comfort, or control. The Israelites’ demand for a king led to a history of flawed rulers; some good, most bad, all failing in some way.

By the time Jesus arrived, the people of Israel were still looking for a king. They were waiting for a political liberator, not a suffering servant. When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling a prophecy, the crowd cheered. But in just a few days, those same voices would demand His death.

**How do you see this shift in the crowd's attitude reflected in today's culture?**

How often do we do the same? We welcome Jesus when He fits our expectations but struggle when He calls us to surrender. The story of Palm Sunday reminds us that Jesus doesn't come to meet our demands, He comes to be the King we need.

## MOVE

### Read Mark 11:1-11

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem was filled with meaning. He rode a donkey, a fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy that the true King would come in humility, not military power. The people shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us now", waving palm branches, which was a symbol of victory. Yet their idea of salvation was short-sighted. They wanted political freedom, but Jesus came to bring something greater, spiritual freedom.

**How does Jesus' choice to enter Jerusalem on a donkey challenge the world's view of power and leadership?**

**How do you think you would have honestly responded if you were in the crowd that day?**

The people were ready to embrace Jesus when He looked like the king they wanted, but their praise quickly turned to rejection when He didn't fit their expectations. The same hearts that shouted "Hosanna!" on Sunday screamed "Crucify Him!" by Friday. Their devotion was conditional and they wanted a kingdom on their terms.

This same tension exists in our own lives. Do we truly want Jesus as King, or do we only want Him when it benefits us? Following Jesus means surrendering control. It means laying down our own kingdoms; our plans, our preferences, our self-made identities in order to follow His way.

The truth is, Jesus as King makes us uncomfortable. If He is King, then we are not. If He rules, we must surrender. And we resist that, because:

- **He challenges our control**— We don't get to dictate the terms of our faith.
- **He confronts our comfort**— His way often calls us to sacrifice.
- **He loves people we struggle to love**— His kingdom is radically inclusive.
- **He doesn't always meet our expectations**— His plan is often different from ours.

Jesus isn't interested in halfway devotion. We can't have both our own kingdom and His. He calls us to lay everything down, but what we gain in return is far greater because we get peace,

purpose, and a King who is unlike any other. When we surrender, we find that He is the King our souls truly long for. He is a suffering King, a forgiving King, a loving King. He reigns in ways we don't always understand, but His rule leads to life and freedom.

- Where in your life do you struggle to surrender to Jesus as King?**
- If you were to be completely honest with yourself and your group, have you truly surrendered your life and the struggles you face to Jesus as King? Or is it more a matter of fully making Him the King and Lord over your life?**
- What would change in your life if you fully embraced Jesus as King?**

## **P R A Y**

Take a moment to reflect on what it truly means to surrender to Jesus as King. Are there areas of your life where you're still holding on to control? Are there expectations you need to lay down?

Spend time in prayer as individuals or as a group and ask God to reveal where you need to fully surrender to Him.