



Palm Sunday 2025 – April 19-20-21, 2025

Preacher: Pastor Scott Oelhafen

Sermon Theme: Jesus is a King Like No Other

He rules as a servant 2. He rules with justice

Sermon Text: Isaiah 42: 1-4

1 "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. 2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. 3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; 4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope." (Isaiah 42: 1-4)

Dear friends of our Palm Sunday King, Jesus,

If there is news, big news, about something or someone, that news comes to us much differently than in the past. Praise God we have a choice getting our news on 24 hour tv news channels like CNN or Fox News. We have instant technology like text alerts, social media posts, or the platform formerly known as Twitter. But, years ago, newspapers were the only way people received their news. Publishers would not only print daily editions, but they'd also release special editions. These editions were called "extras." In big cities, young men called newboys would stand on busy street corners and shout at the top of their lungs: "Extra. Extra. Read all about it: Pearl Harbor bombed. JFK shot. Man walks on moon." MVL even has scheduled a play this May called "Newsies" that describes this by-gone era. In a very real way, on this Palm Sunday weekend, God has some big news for us that He doesn't want us to miss. As we celebrate Holy Week, God shares that BIG news with us through His prophet Isaiah. It's almost as if, the prophet is standing on our street corner shouting: "Extra. Extra. Read all about it in Isaiah chapter 42. King Jesus Is Coming. And He's a King Like No Other." He's the kind of king who willingly serves and the He's the kind of king who brings justice to His people.

As Americans, we're familiar with kings. And we're not exactly sold on them. I mean, didn't we fight a revolutionary war just to get rid of olde King George? Most people think of kings as dictators, legends in their own minds, selfish despots. How different is our King Jesus who comes as the promised Messiah! He comes not as a dictator, but as our deliverer in our greatest hour of need. He truly is a **King Like No Other**. Isaiah was God's Old Testament prophet to His chosen people of Israel, who lived 700 years before Jesus was born. And they were people who needed deliverance. Because of their sin and stubbornness, they were about to be exiled to the distant country of Babylon. Their Promised Land and promise of a Messiah must've seemed like ancient history. The people of Israel felt forgotten with no present and no future. Isaiah wrote these inspired words, in chapter 42 to give them and us hope and a future.

Speaking for God, Isaiah introduces us to the coming King Jesus. **1 "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him** Talk about a different kind of King, a-one-of-a-kind of King, really a King Like No Other. Did you catch what kind of king he would be? Isaiah clearly prophesied that He would be a servant-king. Now Pastor O, did you really mean to say that? The Messiah ... a servant-king? Now, there have been boy-kings ... French-kings ... even Burger-kings ... but, servant-kings. No, no, no. A servant is the lowest of the low. He's the one who is always last and never first. He's the one who works the hardest with sweat and blood – doesn't sound real kingly to me. Still fuzzy on what it means to be a servant? Go home and tell someone in your house that you will be their servant for just 24 hours and get back to me how that goes. There is absolutely no way any of us would do that for very long, except King Jesus and he did it for all the time he spent on earth. Truly, He is a King Like No Other. With these verses, Isaiah tells us that King Jesus came to be God's servant to serve us and that He was chosen from the beginning of time. God specifically picked Jesus out to be the Messiah. Remember how at His baptism and then again at His transfiguration, the Father spoke out of the cloud and gave Him this thundering endorsement: "This is my Son whom I love. With Him I am well pleased." God's Spirit was on Him – and everybody knew it. He was the chosen one, the Messiah, the coming Christ.

Of course Jesus rules. For us that means He is in control of the biggest and the smallest events in our lives from the changing of the weather, to the ups and downs of the stock market, to the score of a Twins baseball game. And when life is hard and complaining is easy, we need to know we have a servant-King who's looking out for our best interests. That's because He rules us in love. He deals with gently with us. Remember, King Jesus knows our hurts and feels our pain. He's 100% human as well as 100% God. Isaiah gives us this promise from the King: **A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.** That's important for us to hear. because sometimes, our plans for retirement don't pan out. Our health can get much worse. There are times our friends and even our family let us down. We pray to Jesus to take all the pain and loneliness away, but it just keeps coming. "And I thought Jesus wouldn't snuff out a smoldering wick," we cry. Instead, it feels like He's trying to blow out our faith." And then Isaiah's promise hits us. How do you save a dying fire? You blow on it. You fan it. You feed it oxygen so that the fire will grow and spread. That's how Jesus uses adversity in the lives of His believers – not to snuff out faith, but to bring it to life by pushing us back to His timeless Word that gives salvation. When life gets us down, look up to heaven to see your Savior King acting in ways you can see and in more ways you can't. He rules with our best interests in mind.

Yes, Jesus is a King – a King like no other. And finally three times in our sermon text, we hear His ruling style as a king like no other: He rules with justice. Watch the evening news and it won't take long to hear bad news. Terrorists like Hamas execute another hostage. A drug dealer is responsible for more overdoses. And the public cries out: "we want justice." We want the terrorists dead. We want the criminals caught. Did it ever occur to you that we tend to limit God's justice? We all want God's justice done - - to someone else. God's view of justice is much bigger. And it even includes us. Of

course, we're not drug dealers, but did we ever deal out juicy gossip that put someone else down? Of course, we never killed anyone, but did we ever hurt someone with our words? According to God's perfect standard, we are no better than criminals and deserve to be left alone in the prison of hell for all eternity. But, then Isaiah reminds us how Jesus comes to save us as a King like no other. As the greatest King of history, Jesus fought the battle of sin and death alone for us. Isaiah's prophesy says: **4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth.** Here's the good news. Acting as our King, Jesus was perfect for every time we weren't. Jesus' cross is our crown. When justice was called for, Jesus paid the penalty with His blood-stained cross and empty tomb. He died that we may live. He lives that we will never die eternally. Forgiveness, purpose, and heaven. It's all available to every sinner who believes.

So take your pick: get your news from TV, newspaper, or your smart phone to stay connected with the world around you. But, this Holy Week, believe Isaiah's prophesy that Jesus is our King, a King like no other. Together, let's Worship Him, Share Him, Serve Him, until we see Him in heaven. All hail King Jesus. Amen.