

THE REAL MESSIAH

(Lamb Selection Day, 2018)

A. Every culture has its heroes

B. Israel was waiting for their hero. They called Him “Messiah”

1. Messiah means “Anointed One” in Hebrew (Lit. “anointed by oil”)

a. There were two things people believed Messiah would do:

1) He would defeat Israel’s enemies in battle

2) He would restore right worship in the Temple

b. Messiah would be like David. (In fact, he would be called “Son of David”)

2. So the Jews waited...and waited...and waited.

THE MESSIAH

A. When Jesus was born, Herod the Great was ruler over Israel

1. Herod defeated Israel’s enemies in battle and rebuilt the Temple

2. He asked Caesar for the title “King of the Jews”

“Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews?” (Matthew 2:2)

“We’ve seen a star and want to go and worship Him. When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.” (Matthew 2: 2-3)

3. When someone claimed to be “Messiah,” people watched to see if he defeated the Romans

B. But Jesus brought a different understanding of the “Kingdom”

1. Jesus also brought different understanding of the “Kingdom-Bringer”

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

2. Jesus was the “Lamb of God”

C. Jesus’ message is that our problem is not just a Roman problem

1. The problem is not “out there,” it is “in here” (in our heart)

2. The problem is we all want to be our own “messiah” (“Messiah Complex”)

“If you eat of this fruit [i.e., if you defy God] ...you will be like God.” (Genesis 3:5)

D. The only solution is to stop playing messiah and find the real Messiah

THE MADNESS

A. Jesus is not just the Messiah; he is the “Lamb of God”

“Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love” (John 13:1)

1. We call it Palm Sunday; the Jews call it “Lamb Selection Day”

*“...on the tenth day of the month, each man is to select a lamb for his own family.”
(Exodus 12:3)*

2. The lamb was to be without blemish; the lamb was to die on Friday

B. At Passover, everyone was thinking about revolting against the Romans

C. It is significant that Jesus comes riding into Jerusalem on a donkey

*“Say to the daughter of Zion (“people of Israel”) see your King, the Anointed One, the Messiah, comes to you gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”
(Zechariah 9:9)*

“Never again will an oppressor overrun my people.” (Zechariah 9:8)

“The whole crowd began to praise God in loud voices.” (Luke 19:37)

D. People begin waving branches and shouting

1. The symbol of the Maccabean revolt was palm branches

2. The crowd begins to shout “Hosanna!”

a. It is a political term: Hoshana (“Help; save; deliver”) and nah (“Please!”)

b. “Hosanna” meant “Messiah, deliver us! Give us our freedom”

THE MESSAGE

A. On “Lamb Selection Sunday” God says, “I have chosen your Lamb”

1. Jesus makes his entry on a donkey. Everyone thinks, “This is it!”

“He wept over it” (Luke 19:41)

“If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace - but now it is hidden from your eyes.” (Luke 19:42)

2. They don’t want the Lamb God has chosen

a. So Jesus goes to a cross where “failed” messiahs go

b. Jesus’ followers are devastated

3. That is why the crowd became so hostile in just a couple of days

a. They did not understand the real Messiah was the “Lamb of God”

b. They did not understand Jesus’ mission was to take on all our sin

c. They did not understand Jesus came to sacrifice Himself for you and me

*“He humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross!”
(Philippians 2:8)*

B. Every person has suffered from the “Messiah Complex” except one

That was Jesus. He was the Messiah!