

## **Jesus, Our Victorious King**

### **Week 9 – The Reality of the Spirit Realm**

#### **Message Mate**

- The role of a benevolent king is to keep peace by bringing good into their kingdom and protecting their kingdom from attack from opposing kingdoms. The same is true for the Kingdom of God, where releasing the Kingdom of God involves releasing God's peace, increasing good and reducing evil. This reflects the ministry of Jesus and what he commissioned his disciples to do (Luke 9:1,2).
- On Palm Sunday, the crowd of people acknowledged Jesus as their king, who came in peace riding on a donkey. Jesus knew his purpose which was to proclaim the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15, Luke 9:2) and he demonstrated his authority. Do you know your level of authority?
- Jesus taught with authority (Matt 7:28,29) and not as the religious leaders who taught compliance with the rules. Jesus had authority over evil commanding evil spirits and they obeyed him (Mark 1:27). Jesus had authority over sin and its consequences, disease and death. He had authority to forgive sins (Mark 2:5-12), to heal disease (Matt 4:23) and over death (John 11:43,44). In summary, Jesus had authority to teach and forgive, and authority over evil, disease and death.
- As Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the crowd knew His authority and hailed Him as their King. Jesus continued to the temple and there revealed His authority by cleansing the temple (Mt 21:12,13), healing diseases (Mt 21:14) and teaching (Luke 19:47,48).
- Just as there was a struggle between the crowd celebrating Jesus' authority to teach and forgive, and over evil, disease and death, the religious leaders were questioning His authority to teach, forgive, cast out demons, to heal and they were upset that He had raised Lazarus from the dead. Each of us also have similar internal struggles. We want to accept the authority of God's Word but reject it when it doesn't allow us to do what we want. We receive His forgiveness, but at times don't believe we are forgiven or we hold unto unforgiveness. We ask for His healing and celebrate it, but at times don't accept it is possible or reject God when our prayers aren't answered as we want them to be. We invite Jesus in to cleanse our lives, but may deny some impurities, or feel some are not a problem.
- If you believe Jesus is your King and has authority to teach and forgive, and authority over evil, disease and death, will you submit to His authority? Do you accept His authority to bring peace by reducing evil and increasing good? As you increasingly accept His authority, you will increasingly receive His peace. Will you allow Jesus to be your victorious King and allow Him to reign in your life?

## Some Questions to Consider

1. The role of a benevolent king is to keep peace by bringing good into their kingdom and protecting their kingdom from attack from opposing kingdoms. Discuss how these principles also apply to the Kingdom of God.
2. Read Matthew 7:28,29. Jesus taught with authority. Discuss what made Jesus' teaching different to that of the teachers of the law?
3. Read Mark 1:27. Jesus had authority over evil spirits. Discuss how authority over evil is part of bringing peace, reducing evil and increasing good. Consider discussing a testimony of where you have seen or experienced evidence of this?
4. Jesus had authority to forgive. You have authority to forgive others and to proclaim forgiveness when you say, "I forgive you." Discuss how exercising authority to forgive is part of bringing peace, reducing evil and increasing good. Consider discussing a testimony of where you have seen or experienced evidence of this?
5. Given that Jesus demonstrated authority to teach and forgive, and authority over evil, disease and death, discuss how that would have caused the crowd to want to hail Jesus as their king and then consider the rejection of Jesus' authority by the religious leaders.
6. As you consider the internal struggles we sometimes experience about Jesus' authority in our lives, which area of His authority in your life do you struggle with, His teachings, forgiveness or His authority over evil, disease, death or cleansing?
7. Discuss the following, "As you increasingly accept His authority, you will increasingly receive His peace." Have you experienced this? Do you want to?

Pray –

Pray with thanks that Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth. Give thanks for the way that lives of countless people were changed as recorded in the gospels, and in the centuries since.

Ask the Lord to help you increasingly submit to the authority of Jesus as King in your life and to increasingly receive His peace.