



EMPOWERED LIVING LIKE JESUS DID

Empowered – His Kingdom Come (Palm Sunday)

Date: Sunday 10th April

Speaker: Lauren Morris (City Centre Site) & Kathryn Thorp (South Site)

Key Verses: Matthew 21:1-22

Talk Summary:

We saw Jesus bring His Kingdom on Palm Sunday. What does it look like for God's Kingdom to come today?

We can partner with God to bring His Kingdom by BOWing – knowing our Bible, being Obedient to what Jesus tells us and through Worshipping him with our lives, sharing that with others as we go.

Knowing your Bible - The people in Jerusalem knew the Word of God, many of them off-by-heart. They knew what God had promised to do and how to look for where he was moving. When their King came to them, they partnered with him in bringing His Kingdom to Jerusalem as they worshipped him. The people of Jerusalem knew what to do when Jesus showed up because they knew God's word, and we have that opportunity today too.

Obedience to Jesus - Jesus told his disciples to go to the nearby town, find a specific donkey, and bring it back to him, and they did. That was their act of obedience. There are so many examples of simple obedience in the Bible – the servants just doing what they were told and filling jars with water and seeing it turn to wine; the disciples handing out a small bag of bread and seeing it feed over 5000 people; Peter walking on water towards Jesus. All of these acts of obedience were rewarded with incredible miracles, examples of God's Kingdom coming.

Jesus gives us the same power and authority today (John 14:12), we just need to listen to what He is saying to us and be obedient in that.

Worshipping – The people in Jerusalem worshipped Jesus by laying down coats and branches in Jesus' path and shouting praise, all the way to the temple. The children in the temple (Matthew 21:15-17) made a real impact on those around them, just by worshipping freely and taking the joy of the Kingdom with them. Imagine a world where we all worship freely and spread the joy, hope and peace of the Kingdom wherever we go. Imagine a world in which we all read the Bible, pray and listen to God, being obedient in using our spiritual gifts and praying for others. Imagine the lives that would be changed.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- What is your relationship with the Bible? How have you seen God use His Word in your life?
- What is God asking you to be obedient in this week?
- Are there any things that you want to push into more faith for?
- How can you be part of bringing the Kingdom to your areas of influence?

Witness - How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?
 - Upcoming Events (go to bvc.so/whats-on for details)
 - Kids Team Interest Meeting – 19th April, 8pm-9pm on Zoom
 - Money MOT evening – 20th April, 7:30-8:30pm on Zoom
 - Encounter Night – 23rd April, 7:30-9pm, City Centre Site