

ONE CONVERSATION

Parents: One of the key themes of Matthew's Gospel is the concept of the coming kingdom of God. This was the subject of Jesus' preaching (Matt. 4:13) and His parables (Matt. 13:11). He even taught His disciples to pray for the coming of this kingdom (Matt. 6:9). Given that Jesus spoke so much about the kingdom of God and taking into consideration our modern understanding of great nations, it is often difficult for us to understand some of the things Jesus does. The disciples often did not understand the kingdom either. When Jesus informed them that He was going to Jerusalem for the purpose of suffering and dying, Peter rebuked Him. Here in Matthew 21, we will see the Messiah, the eternal King who was to rule forever in the line of David, coming to the capital city of His kingdom. Our great King, however, doesn't come with a massive entourage or an impressive security detail. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, there was no one more famous (Matt. 4:24; 9:26) or more powerful (Matt. 8:24-27) in all of Israel, and yet He entered Jerusalem in a posture of humility, riding on a donkey. Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem serves as a picture both of who Jesus is and what He came to do. Jesus is King, but He establishes His kingdom through self-sacrifice.

Discuss Jesus' sacrifice and why we should follow in His example of self-sacrifice. Consider different ways you can serve those in your community, and also ask your son and daughter about ways they can show the love of Christ to classmates and those who might not know the Lord.

CENTRAL TRUTH

Jesus is King and He establishes His kingdom through self-sacrifice.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- **Dwell:** What barriers are keeping you from following the humble self-sacrificial example of Jesus? List some of the barriers that keep you from showing love to others and serving them. Ask God for grace to overcome these so that you might point many people to Christ.
- **Memorize:** Matthew 21:9
- **Pray:** Reflect on Jesus' humility despite the fact that He was completely God. Ask God not only to help you look to Him as your Savior, but also as the perfect example of how you should live, serve, and love others. Pray that Christ's humility would not just be some theological truth you believe, but a reality that changes your heart and life.