

A Donkey and a Seed John 12.12-26

The inauguration of a kingdom

As Jesus came into Jerusalem the crowd was shouting, “Hosanna!”
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the King of Israel!”

“Hosanna” = “Save us now!”

These words are from Psalm 118.25-27.

Verse 14 quotes Zechariah 9.9 and tells us that *Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, “Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”*

This is the acting out of an inaugural procession for the king.

A kingdom focussed on peace

The crowd took their cues from Ps 118 – looking to God to fulfil and bless their agenda.

Jesus looked to Zech 9 – God is the one who acts.

When Jesus’ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey he was re-spinning the military expectations of the crowd and proclaiming peace.

A kingdom inclusive of outsiders

The second image is Jesus in conversation with a group of Greeks.
His kingdom will be inclusive of outsiders.

A kingdom born out of sacrifice

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds...”

A seed exists to pass on life.

And Jesus calls us to join him in it

Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while whoever hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.”

Where is Jesus calling you to follow him and lay down your life for others?