



# *Palm Sunday*

*Mark 11:1-11 - Lent series - Lymm Baptist Church 2019*

# Jesus' last week on earth

- Today we see Jesus enter Jerusalem for the last time
- A momentous sequence of events will follow ...
- These will include a cross ... our faith ... human history
- This point in all the Gospels is a pivot – suddenly its different



# Jesus' last week on earth

Today we will do two things:

## 1. First we will tour the passage

- Enter the streets – see a few a points of interest

## 2. Then we will stop off at one point

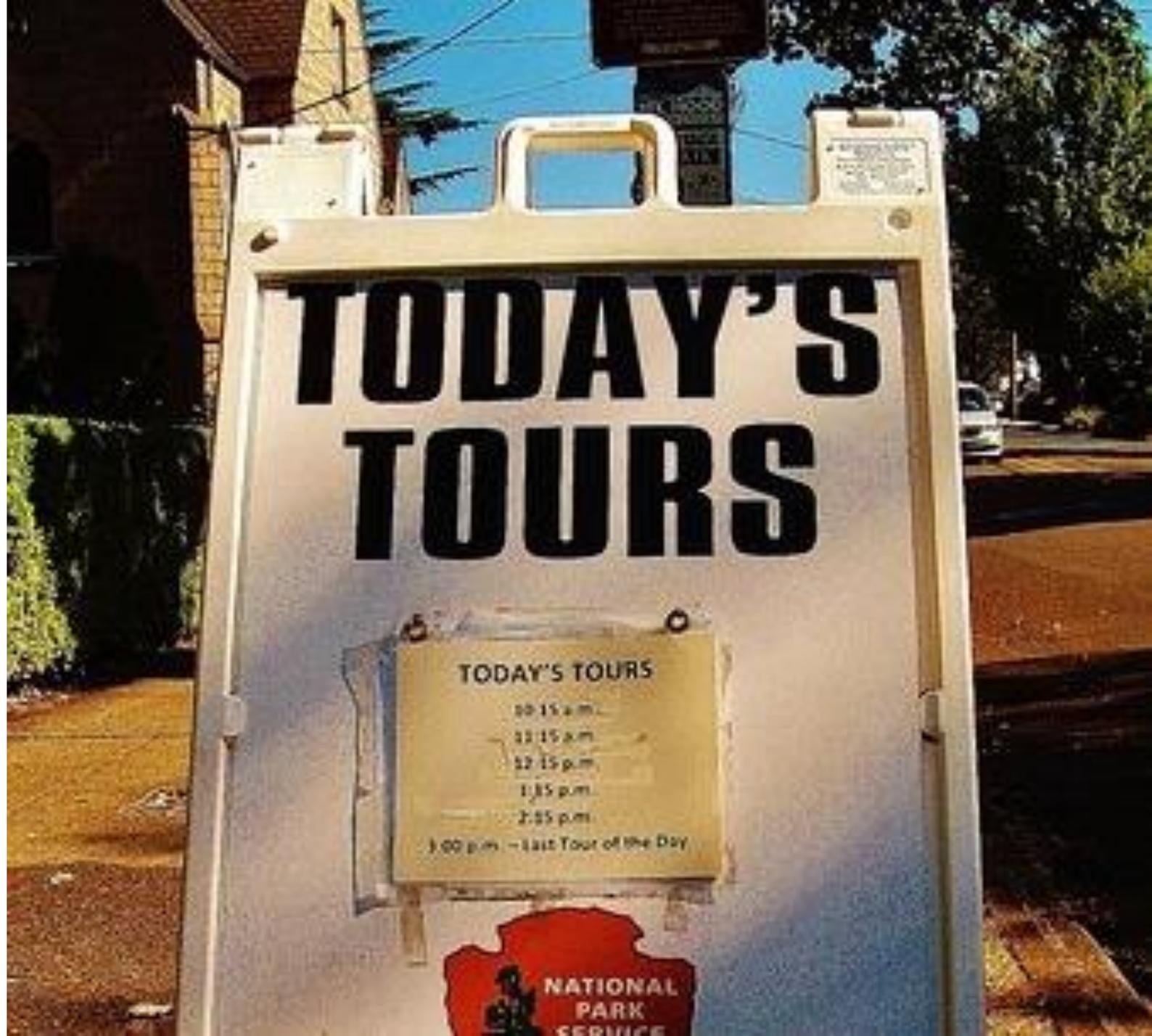
- Look at just one line – one idea



# Mark 11, 1-11

## Whistle-stop tour

- It's Passover!
- Thousands of pilgrims are headed for Jerusalem
- Is this a triumphant march into Jerusalem by Jesus?
- This short passage is more thoughtful than we realise:
  - Begins with a strange incident
  - Ends in a subdued, low key



## **Mark 11, 1-11**     “Jesus comes to Jerusalem as king”

*As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ‘Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, “Why are you doing this?” say, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.”’*

*They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, ‘What are you doing, untying that colt?’ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,*

*‘Hosanna!’*

*‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’*

*‘Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!’*

*‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’*

*Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.*

# Even in the first 2 lines there's a real contrast

- Bethany! - A place of friends and great memories
- Mount of Olives (Gethsemane) – A place of agony and betrayal

*As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you,*



# Why the detail about this donkey?

- An unblemished, unridden, foal was important
- A reference to something that was written 500 years before
- It was understood that Israel's great hero would arrive like this
- And Jesus rarely went about on a donkey



## The coming of Zion's king

9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!  
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!  
See, your king comes to you,  
righteous and victorious,  
lowly and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

# Was this provocative (or what?)

- Here comes Jesus - *already* controversial
  - Riding into the Capital ... (*Holy City*)
  - On one of the greatest days of the year ... (*Timing*)
  - On the foal of a donkey .... (*Symbolism*)

Assuming the role of Messiah right in front of them

*For the authorities, this is the final insult – boiling point - they have to DO something*



# Was Jesus political?

.... great question?

*For now, back to our tour ...*



# AND THE PEOPLE LOVE HIM!

(well, for now)

- Hosanna! .... “save us!”
- A customary greeting of praise

*Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,*

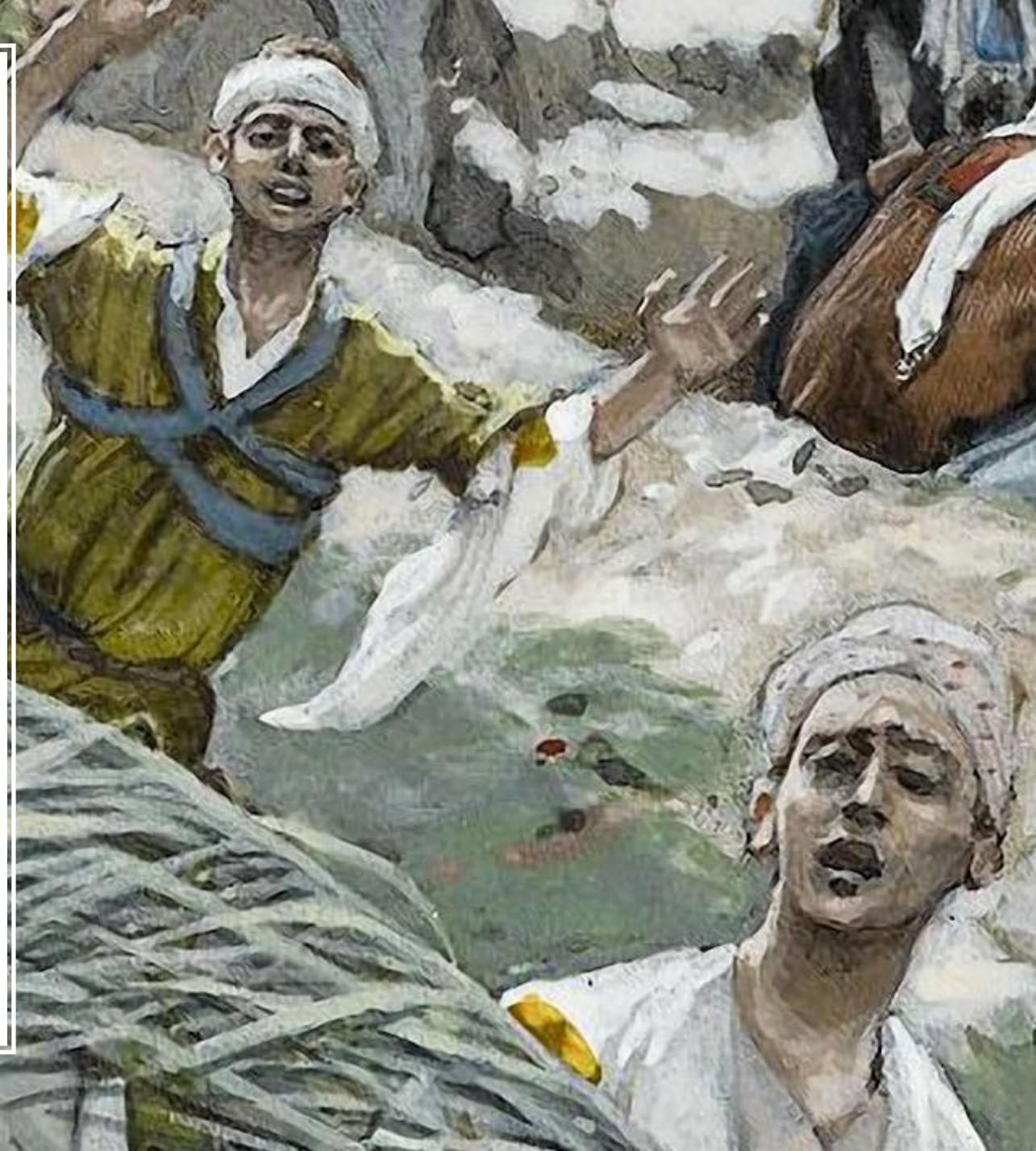
*‘Hosanna!’*

*‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’*

*‘Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!’*

*‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’*

- We will come back to this



# And then ... the last verse

- So the crowds have gone – only the 12 remain
- Does Jesus demonstrate a quiet foreboding?
- He looked around ..... But he's not a sightseer
- More likely he is taking it in .... sacrifice, torture, crucifixion, this is where it begins ...

*Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.*

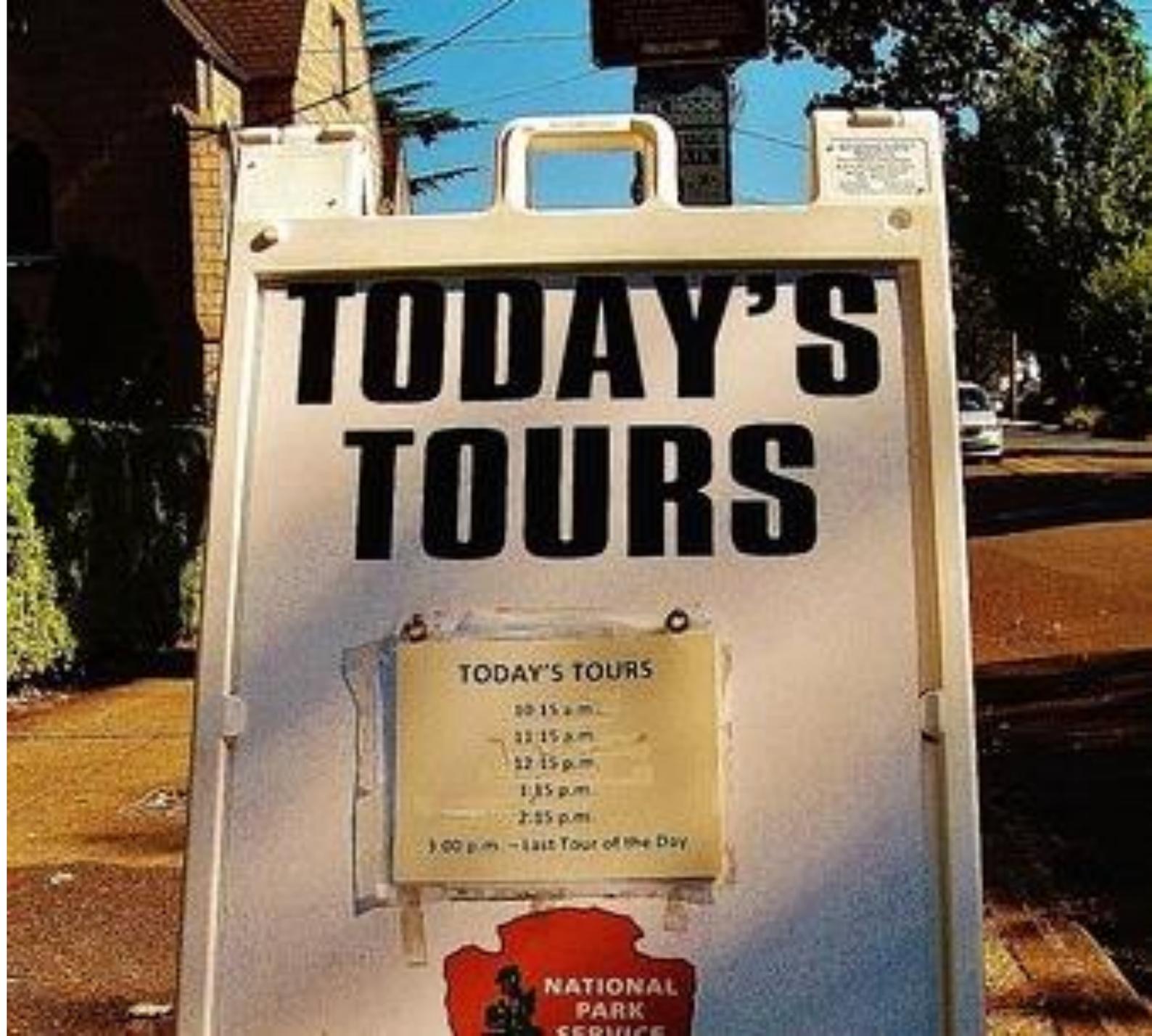


# And then Jesus does a very human thing

- He goes to spend time with his closest friends – in Bethany
- Mary, Martha, Lazarus, & the 12
- Much of the teaching and the parables of Jesus come from these next few days in Bethany



Time to jump off  
the tour and  
spend some time  
at one place



# The Kingdom

“The coming kingdom of our father David”

2 questions:

- *What did this mean for them?*
- *What does it mean for us?*

THE

INGDOM

*‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’  
‘Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!’  
‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’*

# What “coming kingdom” were they going on about?

- What were the people asking for?
- In simple terms ..... “the good old days” when we had our own country, and our own king (wasn’t he wonderful!) ...
- Come on Jesus – make it happen!

*‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’  
‘Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!’  
‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’*

THE  
COMING KINGDOM

Asking all the right questions  
... expecting all the wrong answers

- “SAVE US!”  
– yes but
- “Give us the coming kingdom!”  
– yes but

***So what is this coming kingdom?***

THE  
COMING  
KINGDOM

# What is God's kingdom?

- A phrase that appears often
- Jesus talked of it “the kingdom of heaven is among you ...”

2 inadequate answers

1. It's not a physical country  
– that was their mistake
2. It's not only about heaven  
– that's sometimes our mistake

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

No easy definition but ...

*The Kingdom of God is any place or any person under God's authority. Any place or any person where Jesus reigns.*

Your life? Your home? Our church?

THE KINGDOM

## Simply put ...

- The kingdom brings with it a relationship with Jesus
- It brings purpose, meaning, strength, hope
- But not a bed of roses
- And heaven therefore is when everything is kingdom – forever
- 2 aspects to this kingdom ...  
some of it is NOW,  
some of it is NOT YET



Some of the kingdom we see now – but some of it is not yet



Jesus on earth  
The Easter events

We live  
between  
Jesus'  
1<sup>st</sup> coming  
and his 2<sup>nd</sup>  
coming



The 2nd Coming  
of Christ

# Living between the times

- **NOW** .... we see God's kingdom breaking into our present
- **NOT YET** – we know how this story ends .... but it ain't over yet

Blessings AND battles both feature in this age:

- God's Spirit V evil
- Victory over death V dying
- Full forgiveness V being perfect

***"Your Kingdom Come"***



**Risen**  
EVERYTHING  
CHANGES

# This changes everything!

Being an Easter people means

- We see God in the present AND the eternal
- We can connect reality with eternity
- We understand that the Kingdom is here today ... it's already started .. And there is more to come

*We are the bringers of the good news of  
kingdom now and kingdom to come  
Helping people catch sight of "something other"*



**Risen**  
EVERYTHING  
CHANGES

*Risena*

EVERYTHING  
CHANGES