

A silhouette of a person standing with their right hand raised, set against a vibrant sunset sky with orange and yellow hues. The person's hand is open and facing upwards. The text "Is Jesus MY Lord?" is overlaid on the bottom left of this image.

Is Jesus MY Lord?

The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost's sermon notes used in his message preached October 27th, 2013 AM Services

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Scripture reading

This morning we are reading from the Gospel of Matthew chapter 21 (NRSV)

- This is another one of those very important accounts that appear in all 4 Gospels

Please stand for the reading of God's Word

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet¹, saying, ⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion, look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

✚ Every year, right after the harvest gathering, God's people celebrated the Feast of the Tabernacles. They would journey from all over to Jerusalem. It was a joyous occasion that lasted for seven days. During this period, called the Hallel or praise, Psalms were read (Psalms 113 to 118) and then on the last day of the feast they would respond with loud "Hosannas" as they waved palm and willow branches.

The word "hosanna" comes from two Hebrew words found in Psalms 118 (The last Psalm of the Hallel, the great Hosanna) verse 25, it is a prayer:

"YHVH yasha annah (O Lord, save us, we pray)." Psalms 118:25

"Yasha anna" got transliterated into the Greek as Hosanna. **It is a prayer: Lord, save us, we pray**

✚ On this occasion the Jews had been oppressed by the Romans for years. Humiliated, overtaxed, and controlled by these immoral heathens they longed for someone to free them, someone to save them from their enemy the tyranny of these Romans.

As they come to the last day of the feast their attention turns to the road coming down from Bethphage... **Jesus is coming! Hope rises!** This is the one who raises the dead, this is the one who fed the 5000, this is the one who heals the sick, the blind see, the lame walk... demons flee from his presence! They start to shout: **Hosanna! Salvation!** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! They throw their coats before him; they wave their palm branches before him... Hosanna, YHVH yasha annah (O Lord, save us, we pray!)

✚ Some ask, "Who is this?" "This is Jesus, the son of David", they reply, "He can save us from this Roman oppression... we can be a free Israel like we used to be, the great a mighty people of God.

✚ As Jesus approaches the city the crowd grows! People run out of the city to meet him... there is joy, there is hope... Hosanna! O Lord, save us!

✚ After all, the name **Jesus** comes from this same Hebrew **Yasha** (save)

"You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

When in need, when in trouble, when we fail, when we sin, we can always call on Jesus for "salvation"... he is our "hosanna" (Save us Lord!)

¹ Zechariah 9:9



✚ Let me put on the screen some other names of Jesus...

We have looked at **Saviour. King** (in the story we have read) **Shepherd Lord Master**

While all these are legitimate titles given to Jesus, one of these is very different than the others. Can you pick what one? **Saviour!** Savior is something that Jesus does for me, he forgives me, he helps me in my time of need, he rescues me, he sets me free! He saves me! Saviour!

The rest of the words have to do with **authority, submission**; if Jesus is my Master than he is the boss of my life; If Jesus is my King than he is my ruler; if Jesus is my Shepherd then he leads me; if Jesus is my Lord then he has authority over my life!

✚ These people were shouting "HOSANNA!" come and save us... we are in a mess and we need someone to save us, someone to help us... someone to set us free from these Romans!

What I find in my life is that it is a lot easier to come to Jesus as my Saviour than it is to come to him as my Lord.

It's so much easier to live my life my way, run my life my way, to do my own thing... and then when I fall on my face, I run to him for forgiveness, help me O Lord! "If you will just help me this one more time". "Please (please, please...) get me out of this mess I am in". Hosanna! Save me!

It's a different thing to say: "You are my Lord! I will do it your way. I will follow you. Not my way but your way!" "Jesus, you are MY Lord" So the question is: **"Is Jesus MY Lord?"**

Is he the boss of my life? Does he have the final say? Is he my ultimate authority?

Let me answer that question for me? Is Jesus MY Lord? ...not always!

I have asked him to be. I want him to be. But sometimes Verner Drost takes over the helm!

Jesus came into Jerusalem humbly riding on a donkey... and there are moments in my day that I want to ride right by him on my high horse and simply do my own thing.

You see, by nature I am a rebellious person. I do not want to submit to anyone. By nature I do not want anyone telling me what to do. It just does not come natural to me!

Illustration: I remember years ago when the old marriage vows still followed the old custom of the bride saying "love, cherish and obey". One couple meeting with me the bride to said, "I'm not saying that part about obey!"

The truth is, I don't blame anyone for not wanting to submit to someone else. I don't like to either... that verse that says:

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

I don't like that at all! This one...

"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."
Colossians 3:20 (NIV)

I struggled with that one too (Anyone else?)...

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account." Hebrews 13:17 (NRSV)

I struggled with that one too...

"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority."
1 Peter 2:13 (NIV)

I really dislike that one especially when I am behind the wheel!

- You know those "do not park – fire lane" areas...



- When I violate that parking rule I am going against someone's authority. They had a reason for that, but in fact I know better! It is arrogance on my part! The rules do not apply to me!

"The one thing that unites all of human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion or ethnic background, is that we all believe that we are above-average drivers."

**My suspicion is that we all struggle with this thing called "submission"
I think that I am not the only one that struggles with it!**

- ✚ We Canadians are quite different to our American neighbours in the south. In many ways. Even in the way we rebel! We rebel silently. Passive rebellion to authority. WE ARE SUTTLE ABOUT IT

Example: When the Americans wanted to separate from the British Crown they went to war... fought battles, shed blood. That is called OPEN REBELLION! We Canadians did not do this. We gave lip service to the British Crown, named our front streets Queen Street/King Street, put the queen on our dollar bills and on the back of our coins (along with a moose, a beaver and a loon) got land grants, protection and then slowly took over the power. If you ask most people today in Canada, "What power does the Queen have?" they will answer, "Oh, she is just a figure head".

We are politely rebellious! We look outwardly very submissive but inside we are not. We do the same with our leaders, if we do not like what they do we silently resist them, stall them until election and simply vote them out. Then we look to vote for anyone who promises not to do the thing we did not want done. We are not openly vocal about it, we practice "passive rebellion". **We like a country where no one is really in charge.**

- ✚ We could argue politics for a long time but the question I have is, what is in our hearts? The Apostle Peter says:

In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. 1 Peter 3:15a (NIV)

It's a heart issue! We can sing about Jesus as Lord, call him Lord, pay him lip service, but he is still just an image on our religious dollar bill!

What is in my heart? An anarchy type attitude? Is there a propensity to needing to challenge any rule? A resistance to comply?

- ✚ Pentecostal/Charismatic churches are particularly propense to rebellious attitudes. We need no one to lead us because "we have the Gifts of the Spirit" and therefore we tend to be separatist. Doing our own thing. Following our own movements. "No one is going to tell me what to do!"

The problem with this attitude is that it is very dangerous!

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:6-7 (NIV)

Notice the direct correlation between submission to God and victory in your life over the enemy?

When we truly humble our hearts before Jesus as Lord it gives us great victory in all areas of our lives. God graces us with favour! I find myself needing to constantly humble my heart and submit to Jesus as Lord of my life (daily!) **MAKE IT A HEART HABIT!**

Illustration: Closet light....

Close: Is Jesus your Lord? Ask yourself, "Is Jesus MY Lord?"

- I encourage you to look at it as a daily walk – develop a daily heart habit
- Start by doing some practical steps
Example: Every morning I bow my knees and say "you are my Lord"
That might not work for you!
- **PRACTICE** "Saying "yes" to His will even when I have to say "no" to mine"



- Piece of paper. Write on the top:
 - Date Oct. 27, 2013
 - "Is Jesus MY Lord!"
- Write one practical action that you might need to take...
 - ...Jesus is Lord of my jokes (dirty, racist, hurtful)
 - ...Jesus is Lord of my work performance (The way you treat others)
 - ...Jesus is Lord of my giving (Maybe he is asking you to give to something)
(Maybe he is asking you to help out the Eagars)
 - ...Jesus is Lord of my attitude (a marriage situation, maybe you are playing with a relationship outside of your marriage, maybe it's what you are watching on the internet or TV, etc.)
 - ...Maybe you need to get baptised (Jesus is Lord)
- Fold that piece of paper and stick it in your wallet, purse, shirt, etc. and tomorrow look at it and ask yourself... is Jesus my Lord!

Ask yourself: What would Jesus want me to do?

What happens when I fail? I call on Jesus as Saviour

