**“Who is this King of Glory?”**

**Matt. 21:9-10; Psalm 24**

**(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 4/13/25)**

 Today we celebrate Palm Sunday; next week it’s Resurrection Sunday. As Jesus entered Jerusalem on this day, the City of David was swollen with Passover pilgrims, many hailing Him as a conquering king. He had performed miracles, sparred with religious leaders, raised Lazarus from the dead… and reassured repentant sinners that their sins were forgiven. The question of Matt. 21:10 remains to this day: “Who is this?” That question is echoed in Psalm 24:10, “Who is this king of glory?”

 Our scripture today begins to answer that question in verse 1: God made everything, He owns everything, and He keeps it all going (Rom. 11:36). That includes us, folks! All people are God’s by right of possession. You are accountable to God, whether you believe that or not. (Q4) People rebel against this by saying “I call my own shots,” or “I am my own person,” or “It’s my life, I’ll do what I want.” People say, “I have power. I have ability. I can make my own decisions.” But none of us exist outside of God’s sovereign will. The real question is, since I am God’s, what does God want from me?

 Psalm 24:3 talks of the “hill of the Lord.” This is Mt. Zion, a metaphor for the presence of God among His people. You can rephrase the question of Ps. 24:3 like this: Who may come and have communion with our Holy God? The answer is in Ps. 24:4: God, who owns all people, requires righteous behavior from all people. And He requires righteous motives from all people. If you have worshipped idols or you have sworn deceitfully, then you can’t be in God’s presence. Only the righteous in motive and behavior can be in His presence (Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:23). That’s right: none of us cut the mustard!

 But don’t get discouraged just yet. There is Someone who can “ascend the hill”… and He has done it already! The one who enjoys lasting relationship with God is the one who receives righteousness from God. The blessing of friendship with God is received, not earned. You see, even though we can never be fully righteous on our own, when we repent, believe in Jesus, and follow Him, He covers us with **HIS** perfect righteousness so that we are righteous in God’s eyes. So, what should you do? Keep your gaze on the King of Glory, the Righteous One. Walk worthy of His calling and walk worthy of this gift. All that God requires of mankind to have fellowship with Him is found in the Man, Jesus Christ. (Q5)

 The people in Matt. 21:9-10 were shouting the right words… but with the wrong motives. They wanted a king of their own imagining, a king who would overthrow their Roman occupiers. They wanted a king who would affirm salvation that comes from following the Law. They ended up NOT responding with repentance and allegiance. So, how can one ascend and stand in God’s presence and have communion with Him? Only by substitution (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus alone qualifies His people to enter lasting relationship with God. God, in his holiness, requires righteousness from His people; God, in His grace, gives righteousness to His people by faith in Christ. The only means of receiving God’s gift of righteousness is by faith. How could Jacob or Abraham or David or Paul (or YOU) ascend the Lord’s holy hill? Not on their own merit! They had faith that God would provide the means to draw near. And God provided Jesus (Rom. 4:5).

 Read Ps. 24:7-8 again. When Adam and Eve fell, access to the King of Glory was sealed up tight until… Jesus! Are the gates of your heart open wide for Jesus? We want to live rightly not because we want to curry favor with God, but because we want to give Him all the glory. We have been saved from the **penalty** of sin, we have the **power** of the Holy Spirit to help us fight sin, and when we are there with God in Heaven we will finally have clean hands and pure hearts and no longer be in the **presence** of sin.

*Father, draw sinners to You and impart saving faith and righteousness. We want to live for You, bring You the glory, and be Your ambassadors to all we meet. Amen.*

**QUESTIONS**:

1. What foundational truths about God does Ps. 24 establish for all people?
2. What dilemma does this psalm pose for all who desire to “stand in His holy place?”
3. How is the King of Glory described in Ps. 24? How does this compare to the descriptions and expectations of the crowds in Matt. 21?
4. How are we accountable to God?
5. Read Ps. 24:6 again. How does one earnestly “seek Him”?
6. Memorize Ps. 53:10-12. It is God who gives you that clean heart!

**“Hallelujah, What a Savior!” (Bliss)**

1. “Man of Sorrows!” what a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!
2. Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!
3. Guilty, vile, and helpless we;
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
“Full atonement!” can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Savior!
4. When He comes, our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew His song we’ll sing:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!