

SON OF DAVID – SON OF MAN

Matthew 21:7-9 NIV – They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

DESCRIPTION

King David was a man of war who conquered Israel's enemies triumphantly. God promised David that one of his sons/descendants would be the eternal King who would conquer all enemies of God's people.

In the days of Jesus, the Jews had great anticipation of this Son of David. They wanted a King who would come as a man of war – like David had been. Indeed, Jesus will come to conquer all His enemies at the end of the age. However, Jesus came the first time as a Suffering Servant and most often referred to Himself as the Son of Man. He shared the weakness of flesh and blood and suffered shamefully in order to conquer the greatest enemy of the human soul – sin.

In our lives today, we often look to Jesus to come and conquer our earthly problems like a triumphant man of war. At times, He does this. However other times, Jesus leads us to follow Him in suffering and taking up our cross rather than what seems to be earthly victory. This can be painful, disappointing, bewildering, humiliating, or unexpected for us as it may seem contrary to our view of God's promises for our lives. This said, as we share in Christ's sufferings and obedience to His teachings, we are on the path to experiencing God's resurrection power.

Practicing this Son of David exercise is about knowing when God is inviting us into Christ's likeness as a Suffering Servant rather than a conquering King so that we grow in our understanding of God's ways, His will, and His power to resurrect.



PURPOSE:

To recognize God's approach and wisdom in our situations.

To detach from our own expectations of how God should handle our problems.

To increase our willingness to share in the sufferings of Jesus.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Sharing in sufferings of Christ.

Increased humility.

Developing discernment of God's dealings and purposes.

Increased freedom to obey God in our circumstances.

Greater surrender to God.

Reduced striving for outcomes.

PRAYER

Father, thank you for sending Jesus to be the perfect example of serving you as the Suffering Servant and the conquering King. Increase my understanding of how you want me like Him in the situations in my life and help me to walk in your ways. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CONSIDERATIONS

In what ways has Jesus revealed His great power to you?

In what ways has Jesus asked you to take up your cross?

In what ways has following Jesus been different or more difficult than you were originally expecting? How has this confused or disappointed you?

Do you think suffering is a sign of God's punishment? How so?

How did Jesus demonstrate humility by choosing the path of suffering rather than exercising His authority as King of all the earth? Do you think it was hard for Him? How?

PRACTICE

1. Write out a list of some of the situations or trials you are facing in your life right now.
 - Include every kind of trial you can think of like finances, relationships, spiritual blocks, health, persecution, etc.
2. One by one, ask God to speak to you about His perspective on each situation. Use the following questions as a guide:
 - God, do you want me to let you fight this one for me or is there something you are asking me to do about it?
 - God, are you asking me to turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, submit myself, keep my mouth shut, etc? How?
 - God, am I tolerating suffering like sickness, demonic oppression, evil influences, etc. that is not your will for me? What do you want me to do about this?
 - God, how do you want me to change my approach to this so that its recurring pattern/cycle in my life is broken?
3. Thank God for His wisdom for your situations. Put what He has revealed to you into practice in your life right away.

NOTES: _____



ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 53

Matthew 5:10

James 1:2-3, 12

1 Peter 3:8-17, 4:1

Acts 14:22

Luke 9:23

Philippians 2:5-11

John 6:15

2 Corinthians 5:16

Matthew 22:43-45