

Short Talk

(SHT146)

King of Freedom

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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SHORT TALK: “King of Freedom”

- Aim of Short talk:** To teach that Jesus the King came to set people’s lives free from the power of sin ruling over them.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Palm Sunday, Jesus, Freedom, Sin
- Biblical references:** Luke 19:28-40
- Lectionary:** Year C – Palm Sunday
- Props:** You will need a couple of skipping ropes, and ten 20p coins and a palm branch if you have access to one.

Is there anyone here who likes skipping?

- I have 2 skipping ropes.....so come and show us your skills. *(1 or 2 volunteers pick up skipping ropes and begin skipping)*
- That’s great....thank you.

Skipping is fun isn’t it?

- Now I want you to imagine for a moment that your country has been taken over by people from another country.
- One day they make a new law that says that skipping is completely banned and that you will be punished if you do it again!
- I wonder how you would feel about losing your freedom like that?

Now imagine that every day you go and work in the fields.

- At the end of the day you get paid £1. *(Give each person five 20p coins)*
- Unfortunately the people in charge of your country have put in place very high taxes.

Every day you must give them 60p of your money. *(Take away 60p from each person)*

- Now you don’t have enough money to feed your family;
- you become poor and in debt.
- I wonder how you would feel about losing your freedom like that?
- Thank youwould you like to sit down again. *(Volunteers return to their places)*

Freedom is a very precious thing.....

- the freedom to live our lives without someone else forcing us to do what they want us to do, making our lives a misery.

In Jesus' day the Jewish people living in Palestine didn't have freedom to live as they wanted to.

- The Romans were in charge of their country and made all sorts of laws that the Jewish people had to keep.
- Not only that but the Romans also brought in very high taxes that the ordinary people had to pay, and so the Jewish people hated them.

I wonder if you can imagine the excitement for those Jewish people when Jesus rode into Jerusalem one day on a donkey, with His followers shouting in a loud voice: "*Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord?*" (Luke 19:38)

- These people would have heard that God's King, His Messiah was here.
- They would have understood from their history that this meant that they were about to be set free from the Romans who were making their lives a misery.
- Whoopee! Freedommmmm!

So they picked up palm branches and waved them and shouted and praised God. (*Pick up your palm branch and wave it*)

- Finally their Messiah had come to set them free.
- Finally God's King would reign over them once again instead of the Romans.

But the people got it completely wrong about what Jesus had come to do for them.

- Jesus didn't come to set the Jewish people free from Roman occupation.
- He came to bring an altogether different and better kind of freedom to all people.
- Jesus came to set people's lives free from the power of sin ruling over them and the way He did that was by surrendering to a cruel death on a cross on Good Friday.

By dying and rising again from the dead, Jesus offers to every single person freedom. If we come to Him and put our trust in Him He gives to us:

- Freedom from guilt, for He has paid for all of our sins.
- Freedom from judgment, for Father God has adopted us into His family and
- Freedom to live the way Father God intended us to because sin no longer has power to rule over us.

So today on this Palm Sunday, let's celebrate Jesus, the King of freedom who offers us such a wonderful gift.