

ICONS

21, stands as the only time when the people of the Earth treated Jesus as a King. “And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” (Matthew 21:9 ESV). Although the people praised His name, their attitudes soon changed. “The people who rejoice when they see Him are not obedient subjects, but an unstable crowd who a few days later will turn against Him” (Houston Baptist University). The artist behind the beautiful icon remains unknown; however, the reasoning behind the painting seems clear – Jesus came to save the people of the world, even though they treated Him like a King mere days before His crucifixion. Some of the people in the work greet Jesus face on, but others have their heads down and seem to whisper behind the backs of others. Jesus’s head turns back to look at His disciples. He seems to worry for them most of all, because He knows the trials they remain destined to endure, beginning with His own death. Jesus follows His Father’s will, despite knowing the horrors it causes at first. He loves the world too much to jeopardize the fate of all humanity for the comfort of Himself and His friends.

Finally, the way the painting shows Christ and His teachings relates directly with the truth and beauty of the work of art. For centuries, philosophers debated the definition of Truth and Beauty. Plato believes in abstract perfect forms, Aristotle puts faith in Truth and Beauty tied to and encased in objects, while Augustine attributes all Truth and Beauty to God. It just seems impossible to argue against Jesus’s love for the world truly encompassing both Beauty and Truth. As “Icon of the Entry of Christ into Jerusalem” portrays Jesus in His arguably most popular moment while on Earth, He wept for the city. In an account parallel to Matthew’s, Luke 19 shows a more intimate side of Jesus as He drew closer to Jerusalem. “And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes” (Luke 19:41-44 ESV). The scene described in “Icon of the Entry of Christ into Jerusalem” holds so much meaning behind it.

Works Cited

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