

Matthew 20:29 - 22:14

Day 1

Journey to Jerusalem. Read Matthew 20:29 - 21:11

Healing Two Blind Men

1. Where was Jesus headed? 20:29 (See 21:1) How do you picture this procession? How would the mood/thoughts of the people compare to those of Jesus'?

2. How did the blind men address Jesus? 20:30 What did they ask for?

FYI: Mark and Luke record only one blind man. They could be referring to one of these blind men; probably the one that spoke or these various accounts could be referring to different people. In Luke 18:35, it seems they passed by the blind man as they entered the city.

3. What does the crowd's reaction say about their opinion of the blind men? 20:31

- What does the blind men's reaction indicate about their evaluation of Jesus?

4. Why do you think Jesus would ask them what they wanted Him to do for them? 20:32,33 (Compare what they had asked for - 20:30. What other requests could they have made?)

5. How did Jesus respond? 30:34 How did the men respond? 30:34

Entry into Jerusalem

6. What assignment did Jesus give two disciples? 21:1-3 What does His knowledge of the details indicate?

- What role did this fulfill? 21:5 (See Zachariah 9:9)

FYI: "The passage opens with the first day of Passion Week. The cross is only five days away...The story of the Passion Week (Jesus' last week in His journey to the cross) occupies one third of the book of Matthew."

- Irving Jensen (82)

"The Mount of Olives was directly east of Jerusalem, across the deep ravine of the Kidron valley. Bethphage was on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives."

- The Nelson Study Bible (1611)

"Jesus comes in humility, yet with appropriate dignity. Instead of coming on a horse as a conquering general, He comes on a **colt**, as was customary for royalty. He comes as the Prince of Peace."

- David Guzik

7. How does the triumphant entry differ from Jesus' earlier actions?
(See Matthew 12:15,16)

Digging Deeper

See Revelation 19:11-16 for a description of Christ's second coming.

8. What do the multitude's words and actions say about their understanding and expectations of Jesus.

- 21:8
- 21:9 (*Hosanna means "save now" or "save Lord"*)
- 21:10,11

FYI: stirred/moved Strong's NT:4579 *seio*; to rock (vibrate...), i.e. (generally) to agitate (in any direction; cause to tremble); figuratively, to throw into a tremor (of fear or concern) (See Matthew 27:15)

"Nationalistic hopes for freedom or redemption from occupation ran high at the major festivals in Jerusalem. The arrival of a prophet from Galilee already linked to messianic claims and deeds like the feeding of the five thousand, would naturally fuel expectations that independence was near...The crowd shouted *Hosanna to the Son of David* and sang words from Psalm 118, which celebrated a national deliverance." - Africa Bible Commentary (1154)

9. As Jesus approached Jerusalem, what did He understand and how did He feel? Luke 19:41-44

- What was going on behind the scenes? Mark 14:1,2

Applying the Word: How would you answer Jesus' question if asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Day 2

Confronting Unbelief. Read Matthew 21:12-22

Cleansing the Temple

10. List the actions Jesus took at the temple. 21:12 (See also Mark 11:16) (The first cleansing of the temple is recorded in John 2:13-21)

11. Why was He upset? 21:13 (Cf. Isaiah 56:7)

Digging Deeper

What else did Jesus do this last week and what problem did that present? Luke 19:47,48

FYI: "Profiteers, in cooperation with the priests, robbed visitors to Jerusalem by forcing them to purchase "approved" sacrificial animals and currencies at inflated prices...As well, they did this in the outer courts of the temple, the only area where Gentiles could come and **pray**. Therefore, this place of prayer was made into an swap meet, and a dishonest one at that!" - David Guzik

12. What did Jesus do in the temple? Matthew 21:14 How does that relate to the actions in 21:12? *i.e. What was the motive behind them all?*

13. What does the reaction of the chief priests and scribes say about their hearts? 21:15,16a How does that compare to what Jesus was displeased about (21:13)?

Indignant/sore displeased *aganakteo* NT:23... "to feel a violent irritation, physically"; metaphorically, "to show signs of grief, to be displeased, to be grieved, vexed" - Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

14. What did Jesus point to as the source of the children's praise? 21:16 (Compare what He identified as the source and nature of the leaders' words. John 8:43,44)

15. Where did Jesus stay? 21:17 (Compare John 12:1-2) What significance/irony do you see in the words "*He left them*" and "*went out of the city?*"

Barren Fig Tree

16. On His way back into the city, what did Jesus observe about a fig tree and what judgment did He make against it? 21:18,19

- What was amazing about what happened? 21:20

FYI: "Fig trees do have a small, edible fruit that appears in the spring before the sprouting of the leaves. It looked full of promise, but was empty - just like the city of Jerusalem and its beautiful temple...This miracle illustrates God's judgment on unbelieving Israel, who professed adherence to God but produced no fruit or spiritual reality." - The Nelson Study Bible (1612)

"Jesus' two "destructive" miracles - this and the events that ended in the destruction of the herd of pigs (Matthew 8:30-32) - were not directed towards people." - David Guzik

17. In contrast to the withered fig tree, what would the disciples be able to do? 21:21,22 (See Acts 2:23; 5:12-16)

FYI: "The substance of Jesus' response has already been given in 17:20...Here, however, attention shifts "from the smallest effective amount of faith to the opposition of faith to doubt" (Hill *Matthew*)... Belief in the NT is never reduced to **forcing** oneself to "believe" what he does not really believe. Instead it is related to genuine trust in God and obedience to and discernment of His will... Though exercised by the believer, such faith **reposes on the will of God** who acts." - Expositor's Bible Commentary

18. How was the fruit on a fig tree described in Hosea 9:10? (*Some see a fig tree as representing Israel's national privileges. See Luke 13:6-9*)

- What does fruit represent? John 15:5; Ephesians 5:9 What does this say about Jesus' judgment of the tree?

Applying the Word: Are there any "tables" that need overturning in your life?

Day 3

Confrontation with the Chief Priests and Elders. Read Matthew 21:23-32

Jesus' Authority Challenged

19. Where did Jesus go? 21:23a What does this say about His courage in facing those who were seeking to destroy Him? (See also Luke 9:51)

- What did the disciples understand about the danger Jesus faced? What does this say about their courage? John 11:16

20. What did the chief priest and elders confront Jesus about? 21:23b (*Think about things Jesus has done since He arrived in Jerusalem. Why would He feel like a threat to them?*)

FYI: "This long section (21:23-22:46) is characterized by a number of controversies with various Jewish leaders, along with several parables that must be interpreted in the light of such controversies. In Mark's chronology these controversies apparently took place on Tuesday, the third day of Passion Week." - Expositor's Bible Commentary

21. How did Jesus test the leaders' right to ask? 21:24,25a

22. If the leaders answered "*from heaven*", of what would they be accused? 21:25b

- If they answered "*from men*", what problem did they face? 21:26

23. What does their ambivalence say about their motives/hearts/goals?
(How far had they strayed from God's purposes? Malachi 2:7)

Digging Deeper

Read how John
had identified
Jesus. John
1:29-34; 3:31-36

24. What does their answer say about their authority? 21:27 What had He done to the trap they had set for Him?

- What reason did Jesus give later for not answering the leaders? Luke 22:67,68

FYI: "Jesus' reply is masterful... He does not raise this question as a simple rebuke--as if to say that if the authorities cannot make up their minds ...His question is far more profound. If the religious authorities rightly answer it, they will already have the correct answer to their own question...Jesus answers it so that the honest seeker of truth, unswayed by public opinion, will not fail to see who he is, while those interested only in snaring him with a captious question are blocked by a hurdle their own shallow pragmatism forbids them to cross. ...In one sense the Sanhedrin enjoyed not only the right but the duty to check the credentials of those who claimed to be spokesmen for God. But...the leaders proved unequal to their responsibility. They raised the question of Jesus' authority; he raised the question of their competence to judge such an issue." - Expositor's Bible Commentary

25. In an earlier confrontation with the Pharisees (John 8), what had Jesus told them about His authority and how He had received it? (Record the phrases describing His authority.)

- John 8:16
- John 8:18
- John 8:23
- John 8:28
- John 8:38
- John 8:40
- John 8:42
- John 8:58

Parable of Two Sons

[26]. Compare the attitudes and actions of the two sons in Jesus' parable. 21:28-30

	Attitude	Action
First son		
Second son		

[27]. Which son was commended? 20:31 To whom did Jesus equate this?

[28]. How were the religious leaders like the second son? 21:32 (Compare what John the Baptist had rebuked them for. Matthew 3:8,9. See also 23:27)

Applying the Word: In what areas are you most influenced by people's opinions?
How do you handle those opinions when they conflict with God's?

Day 4

Parables. Read Matthew 21:33 - 22:14

Parable of The Landowner

[29]. In the parable of the vineyard 21:33, what did each of the following represent?

- The owner
- The vineyard (see Isaiah 5:7)
- The vine-growers/farmers

[30]. How did the vine-growers treat the first and second group of slaves that the owner sent? 21:35,36 (See how are these groups are described in Mark 12:2-5.)

- To whom do you think Jesus was referring? Compare Hebrews 11:36,37; Matthew 23:31

[31]. Who was sent at last and what treatment *should* He have received? 21:37

32. How was the son treated and why? 21:38-39 (*See the Pharisee's motivation in John 11:47-48. What inheritance were they protecting?*)

33. What treatment will the vine-growers receive from the Lord of the vineyard? 21:41a

- What happened to the vineyard? 21:41b

34. What meaning did Jesus give to their rejection of the Son? 12:42

- Who is the "stone" and "corner stone/capstone" (21:42)? (See Acts 4:10-11; Ephesians 2:20)

35. What did Jesus say about a stubborn refusal to believe in Him? 21:43,44 (What reason did Peter give for their stumbling? 1 Peter 2:8)

FYI: "People can give two responses to Christ, the stone. A person may be broken with repentance as a result of falling Christ. If however a person refuses to repent, the result is judgment." - The Nelson Study Bible (1614)

"Jesus reminds them that their rejection of Him says more about **their** guilt and coming judgment than it says about Jesus Himself...Jesus is not on trial - we are. These people who rejected Jesus had to hear the eventual consequences of their rejection." - David Guzik

36. What did the chief priests and Pharisees understand about these parables? What effect did it have on them? 21:46

- What reasons, what goals, do you think Jesus had in giving these teachings and parables to His enemies? (What happened with some of them? John 12:42?)

FYI: "The Pharisees were...unwilling to give up their pride, learn at Jesus' feet, and seek the forgiveness they so desperately needed. They sensed they would not appreciate what they found if they unwrapped the parables, so they refused to see the truth any further. In doing this, they perfectly conformed to Isaiah's description of a people with dull hearts, hardness of hearing and closed eyes. [Isa. 6:10]" - The Nelson Study Bible (1613)

Parable of the Wedding Feast

37. To what did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven 22:1-3? (Who do you think the king and the son and the servants represent?)

38. How did the people respond to the first invitation? 22:3

- When did the king send out a second invitation? 22:4 What time period do you think this represents?

39. List the responses of those who were invited again. 22:5-6 What do these responses indicate about their hearts?

40. How did the king respond to these actions? 22:7

41. Whom did the king invite after that and what was the response? 22:9,10

42. What was the problem with one of the guests? 22:11,12 (How could this be a problem of the religious leaders?)

FYI: "The man without a robe...considered his own garment good enough, and refused the covering offered by the king. Those who are trying to establish their own righteousness before God are like the man who though he could clothe himself. *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. (Romans 10:3).*"
- David Guzik

"Usually the host supplied the wedding garments. For some reason the man refused to wear them...He didn't choose to come in the king's way."
- Irving Jensen (89)

43. Underline what believers are clothed with:

- Isa 61:10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, NIV
- Romans 13:14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. NIV

44. What was the fate of the man? 22:13

- How broad is God's invitation? How many accept it? 22:14 (Cf. 7:14)

FYI: "All Israel had been invited, but only a few would accept and follow Jesus. Not all those invited will be among the chosen of God, for not all will believe."
- The Nelson Study Bible (1615)

"This event shall take place..."at the end of the age; when "the Lord and His servants shall have come", and when He will deal with the "wicked...and sit down in His kingdom"
- The Companion Bible (1324)

45. Read through the following verses giving reasons for why people reject following the Lord. *Mark things that surprise you or you find meaningful.*

- Proverbs 28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, NAS
- Psalm 10:4-5 In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God....He is haughty and your laws are far from him; NIV
- Psalm 50:17 You hate my instruction and cast my words behind you. NIV
- Hosea 10:13 You have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your way, NAS
- Hosea 13:6 When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me. NIV
- Obadiah 3 The pride of your heart has deceived you, NIV
- John 3:20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. NASU
- Romans 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-who is forever praised. Amen. NIV
- Romans 1:28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. NIV
- Romans 10:3 Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. NIV
- Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. NIV
- Ephesians 4:22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; NIV
- Romans 8:7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, NASU
- 2 Timothy 3:2-5 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. NASU

Applying the Word: *From the above verses, can you see any reasons for resistance in your own life to whole heartedly following the Lord?*