

## Matthew 21:1-22—The King is Coming

- **Intro:**
  - 1/3 of Gospels devoted to last 8 days of Jesus' life (29.5 chapters out of 89)
  - Triumphant entry and resurrection = most climactic events in human history!!
  - Matthew 21 represents Jesus' official break with Judaism and his journey toward Passion.
  - **Main Point: Jesus came as a humble king to provide gracious salvation and transform worship and he is coming again in power to reign over all things**
- **The King Comes into the City (1-11)**
  - **An unapologetic display!**—until now, Jesus kept his messianic identity a secret! This procession down the mountain in plain sight was Jesus' emphatic declaration to be KING!
    - **Braves World Series Parade—HUGE ORDEAL MAKING IT CLEAR WHO WON!!**
    - Why did Jesus arrange to come in riding (first time doing anything but walk)?
      - **Zechariah 9:9—Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Should aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**
      - He came this way to FULFILL Scripture and ANNOUNCE his Divine Kingship!
  - **HE CAME HUMBLY**—Didn't come like a warlike monarch on a battle steed (David) but as a gentle, peace-bringing king on a humble donkey!
    - **Zech. 9:10—I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations;**
  - **HE CAME TO PROVIDE GRACIOUS SALVATION**—v.9—“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”
    - Significance—quoting Psalm 118:25-26—**Save us, we pray, O Lord...blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**—“save us” = “hosanna” in Hebrew!,
      - The last of the Hallel Psalms, praise songs sung by Israel during their feasts. Thousands of people would be singing Psalm 118 that week. **Jesus is the true Passover lamb who saves! He saves, not from political foes but from the enemies of sin, death and grave!**
      - Jesus came to save! In a few days he would be at the cross!
  - **The Crowd's Problems:**
    - **They wanted their OWN version of Jesus (powerful POLITICAL king) not the TRUE Jesus (humble SAVIOR King)**
      - **Jesus didn't come to CATER to our desires but to COMPLETELY CONVERT our hearts!**
    - **They were shallow in their worship—in a few days, would chant...”Crucify Him! :**
    - **What is your answer to the question—Who is this Jesus?—Demands an ANSWER!**
      - Most in Matthew have rejected Jesus but few have believed. Will you believe in him? Will you turn from your rejection, sin and self and trust him as Savior!?
      - **C.S. Lewis—“Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool; you can spit at him and kill him for a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”**
- **The King Cleanses the Temple and Curses the Fig Tree (12-22)**
  - **HE CAME TO TRANSFORM WORSHIP**
    - **Jesus was making a sure statement about who he was**—**Mal. 3:1-4**—the Messiah would be noticed by his forerunner messenger (JTB) and by his cleansing of the temple...Jews were expecting the Messiah to do this!
      - Tens of thousands of people were there—this was a massive display!
      - **v.15-17**—quotes Psalm 8—explicitly about praise to God alone!
    - **Jesus was asserting authority over worship**—Jesus redefines WORSHIP
      - **More than “cleaning”...he was STAKING HIS CLAIM—The center of Christian faith is not a place but a PERSON; we don't need a Holy Land b/c we have a Holy Person!**

- **The Temple's Problems:**
  - **It was full of exploitation and extortion (v.12-13)**
    - The temple workers/inspectors were essentially defrauding the people—reject sacrifices that were brought then charge \$\$\$. They had abandoned WORSHIP in pursuit of their own PURPOSES! They had abandoned PEOPLE in pursuit of PROFIT!!
  - **It was hindering rather than inviting the worship of the nations! (v.12-13)**
    - **Isaiah 56:7**—it was to be a house of prayer FOR THE NATIONS—rather than extending the kingdom to the nations, these leaders were excluding the kingdom from the nations!
    - **The temple failed to bless the nations...it would be destroyed. Jesus, the better temple, is the hope of the nations! We, as his temple, go to make worshippers of the nations!**
  - **It excluded the weak and vulnerable (v.14-15)**
    - **2 Sam. 5**—David excludes the blind and lame from the house of God
    - Jesus—heals the blind and lame in the house of God—Jesus is a Truer and Better temple...the place where the lame and weak find healing and forgiveness! This was Jesus' last healing miracle and occurred in the Court of the Gentiles!
  - **It was full of Hypocrisy (v.13; 18-22)**
    - v. 18-22—an acted parable of judgement on hypocrisy!!
      - **v.13—It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you make it a den of robbers.**
        - Den of robbers (Jeremiah 7:11)—huge judgement on Israel about hypocrisy!
          - “robbers”—condemns the religious leaders who LOOK spiritual but NEITHER worship God truly nor love their neighbor!
        - **The leaders had used the temple for large profits rather than worship. These people are religious billboards of piety but internally were empty of true worship**
      - They were full of ritual (the fig tree had leaves) but void of worship (the tree was fruitless)
      - **v.21-22**—FAITH is the fruit that indicates true life! No faith in Jesus = death!
- **The King is Coming Again (Rev. 19:11-16)**
  - The king who came to Jerusalem humbly on a donkey to graciously save his people from their sin is COMING AGAIN on a white war horse as the Sovereign Reigning King to make a final end to sin and Satan and to initiate his eternal reign over all things!
  - **Bow in allegiance and worship before the Almighty King**
    - **Revelation 19:11-16**—Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.
  - This is the real Jesus...strong & mighty to save. Deserving and demanding our full worship!
- **Communion:**
  - This morning we break one loaf to symbolize the one body that was broken for our salvation and the one body that we are as the church as we partake in Christ by faith. If you can affirm this morning that we are taking the Table together in unity around the gospel and can affirm that you are personally trusting in Christ alone for salvation, please come take the Table. If you have not placed your faith in Christ alone for salvation, please do not take the Table but take Christ instead. If you are in the process of church discipline, we want to honor that process and ask you to refrain from taking the Table.