

## 40: *The Cry for Mercy* (Mt 20:29-21:17)

When's the last time you humbled yourself and asked for help?  
Today's study will reveal WHO Jesus is and HOW He responds to 'The Cry for Mercy'.

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## teachingnotes

### Blind Men Who See

**Matthew 20:29-30** (NIV) As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. **Two blind men** were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, **Son of David**, have mercy on us!"

Jericho is *the 1st city the people of Israel conquered* when entering the Promised Land (where the walls came tumbling down). This is also the city where Jesus had lunch with Zacchaeus (Lk 19:1-2), and *the city Jesus uses as an illustration about the Good Samaritan* helping the Jewish man who had been attacked and left for dead on this road.

**1: SEE YOUR NEED.** These men knew they were blind and knew they needed help!

### 2: TRUST WHO JESUS IS.

- **Son of David** is a term for the **Messiah**, the one who would sit on David's throne as king.

**Isaiah 9:6-7** (NIV) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. **He will reign on David's throne** and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness **from that time on and forever**. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. [\*700 B.C.]

**Matthew 1:1** (NIV) This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David...

- The Messiah was to bring powerful miracles to His people. John the Baptist, while in prison, asked for evidence that Jesus was the Messiah.

**Matthew 11:4-5** (NIV) Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: **The blind receive sight**, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

These **blind men** (see Mt 20:29-30) who had heard of Jesus and His miracles - called "**Son of David**", the ONE who would reign on David's throne forever! *These men trusted WHO Jesus was!*

### Shouting At Jesus

**Matthew 20:31-34** (NIV) The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, **Son of David**, have mercy on us!"

Jesus stopped and called them.

"What do you want me to do for you?" He asked.

"Lord," they answered, "we want our sight."

Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately **they received their sight** and **followed him**.

② Why did Jesus respond **so graciously** to these men?

1. **They SAW their NEED.**
2. **They TRUSTED who Jesus was.**
3. **They CRIED OUT for His MERCY!**

## **BIG TRUTH: Trusting Jesus Transforms Lives**

These blind men **followed Jesus** to Jerusalem. *Mark's Gospel actually names one of the blind men - **Bartimaeus** (Mk 10:46).* Some scholars think this man likely became a dedicated disciple in the Jerusalem church and was known to the audience Mark was writing to.

Jesus and his disciples travel the difficult **14-mile journey** (see video YouTube channel called **SatelliteBibleAtlas**)



### **He'll Be Coming Over the Mountain**

**Matthew 21:1-5** (NIV) As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, **your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**'"

**Zechariah 9:9** (NIV) Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, **your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.** [\*520 BC]

### **Palm Sunday**

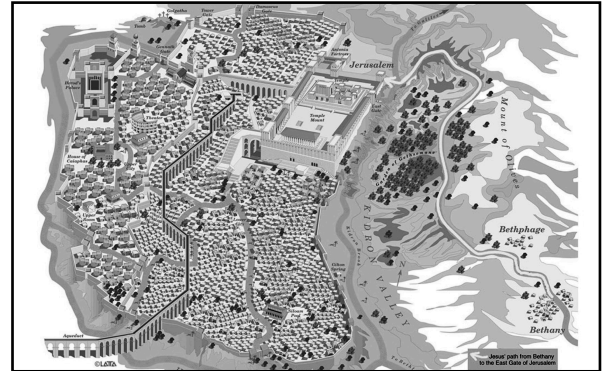
**Matthew 21:6-8** (NIV) The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The **cloak** was outer clothing often used as a blanket at night. Those throwing their cloaks down were following the example of those who did the same when Jehu became king (841-814 BC - 2 Kings 9:13). This symbolizes submitting one's life to the King's authority.

John's gospel tells us these were **palm branches** they laid before Jesus (Jn 12:13).

Almost 200 years before (165 B.C.), **Judas Maccabees** and the Jews ran Antiochus Epiphanes IV out of the temple and rededicated it. **Palm branches** were used in the celebration (1 Macc. 13:51; 2 Macc. 10:7), which became an *annual celebration known as Hanukkah*. Palms were stamped on coins minted by rebels during both major wars with Rome.<sup>1</sup> So, palm branches had both a religious and political symbology of freedom from oppressors.

When Jesus comes riding down the Mount of Olives and into Jerusalem, the people are excited, having heard of His miracles including raising Lazarus from the dead in Bethany (just on the other side of the Mount of Olives). It's no wonder why many think Jesus is the long awaited Messiah and they are ready to CROWN Him King!



### **The Cry for Mercy!**

**Matthew 21:9-11** (NIV) 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!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

**Hosanna** is an *Aramaic term* that means "**save us**", and **the Son of David** was a phrase that recognized Jesus as the Messiah who was in the family tree of King David.

1. While these people didn't have the BIG PICTURE yet, they **SAW their NEED** - freedom from their slavery under the Roman Empire.
  2. **Trusting WHO Jesus was** - the Son of David - the Messiah!
  3. **Crying out for Mercy - Hosanna** - "Save us! Save us!"
- Both John and Luke note that some in the crowd specifically called Jesus "the King of Israel" (Jn 12:13, Lk 19:38). They were asking that God would SAVE (hosanna) through His Messiah! They are ready to CROWN Him King!

<sup>1</sup> Gary M. Burge, [John](#), The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000), 341.

## You Bad. Jesus Mad.

**Matthew 21:12-13** (NIV) Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves [John 2:15 adds that He made a whip out of cords]. "It is written," he said to them, " **'My house will be called a house of prayer,'** but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

**This is near the Court of the Gentiles** - who could only go so far on the temple complex, to pray & worship Yahweh. Further, *Jesus certainly believed that many of these people had wicked intent and were ripping people off.* Even if these WERE fair deals, they shouldn't be taking place on the Temple grounds, but easily could have been set up somewhere close to the Temple.

## Compassionate Jesus & Angry Religious Leaders

**Matthew 21:14-15** (NIV) The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and **he healed them.** But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "**Hosanna to the Son of David,**" they were indignant.

The **Mishnah** (a collection of oral and written traditions including rabbinical teachings relevant to the time of Jesus) notes that Jewish people were expected to journey to Jerusalem to bring their offerings to Yahweh, but there were exceptions made for many with physical abnormalities including **the blind and the lame.**<sup>2</sup> Some scholars even think that traditions had developed that didn't allow people with physical abnormalities to come into the temple complex.

Yet **Jesus welcomes these hurting people to come into His Father's house.** He touched them and **he healed them!** In response, **the children** probably echo what they have heard adults saying, and the children are **SHOUTING, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"** They are crying out "**SAVE US! SAVE US!**" Oh what laughter and excitement there must have been there!

But the **chief priests** (those who allowed the animals and money changers to be there in the first place) and **teachers of the law** who taught the people, were **indignant** - angry - about what was going on! They confront Jesus, saying...

**Matthew 21:16-17** (NIV) "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "**have you never read, 'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?'**" [Ps 8:2] And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

Jesus didn't come to rescue those who think they are righteous. Instead, Jesus comes to rescue those who:

1. **See your need.** You have been blind to the truth about sin & the purpose of life. You can't be good enough to earn God's forgiveness...that's why you have to...
2. **Trust WHO Jesus is.** He is *the Son of David* - the Conquering King - who laid aside his crown to come as a Suffering Servant.
3. **Cry Out for Mercy.** He will respond to your faith. Ask Him to open your eyes, clean your heart, & follow Him.

## Trusting Jesus Transforms Lives

🕒 Would you give Jesus your life today? If you already have, ask Jesus to use YOUR LIFE to **offer hope** to those who **cry for mercy.**

## heretoseveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Steve & Debbie Bass** (850-673-7952), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Tim & Joni Hughey** (850-464-1156), **Rob & Rebecca Leatherberry** (229-232-1087), or **Mark & Dot Mancil** (850-253-5405).

<sup>2</sup>Jacob Neusner, *The Mishnah : A New Translation* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1988), 328.

# discussion questions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. How did the video about the journey from Jericho to Jerusalem impact you? How does it humble you to note that Jesus went to Jerusalem...ON PURPOSE, to make payment for YOUR sin?
2. Share about the moment that you 1) Saw your NEED to be forgiven 2) Trusted Who Jesus IS 3) Cried Out for Mercy.
3. **Read Matthew 20:30-34.** What do you appreciate about these blind men and why didn't Jesus just treat them like the rest of the crowd did?
4. **Read Matthew 21:1-15.** Why were the religious leaders so upset with Jesus? Why was Jesus so upset with them? TRUE or FALSE: Many Jewish people were believing Jesus was the Messiah. What part of Jesus' mission did most of them not yet understand?
5. **Today's BIG TRUTH: *Trusting Jesus Transforms Lives*.** Take some time to tell some stories of folks whom Jesus has transformed.
6. Share any 'aha' moments in today's study - what you learned or how you were challenged. What's God want YOU to do with what we studied today?
7. Share prayer needs and pray for one another.