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Matthew 21  
1/23/24

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Jesus “needed” the disciples to get the donkey. What do you think Jesus needs from His disciples today so people can see and worship Him?
  2. Jesus demonstrated humility and peace coming on a donkey. How can you practically demonstrate humility or peace when you come home or to church or to work?
  3. We trust more than feelings. How much of an impact can fulfilled prophecy have on your faith?
  4. What is something Jesus communicates by cleansing the temple first?
  5. After this study, what are a few things you think God thinks is important for His house?
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### **Teaching Notes:**

Chapter 21 marks a significant change in Matthew.  
Jesus is entering Jerusalem for the first time in Matthew.  
And this is the final week of His life.

Today Jesus will embrace this true identity.

21:1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and bring *them* to Me. 3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.”

Before He enters Jerusalem He secures a donkey and colt.  
He needs them to obey Him, so others can see Him.

There is a 500 year old prophecy that must be fulfilled.

All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

5 “Tell the daughter of Zion,  
'Behold, your King is coming to you,  
Lowly, and sitting on a donkey,  
A colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”

Kings that come to conquer ride a warhorse...  
...but kings that come in peace ride a donkey.

Solomon was in a type of Christ.

1 Kings 1:32 And King David said, “Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.” So they came before the king. 33 The king also said to

them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. 34 There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' 35 Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah."

The fuller prophecy is from Zechariah 9.

Zechariah 9:9

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your King is coming to you;  
He *is* just and having salvation,  
Lowly and riding on a donkey,  
A colt, the foal of a donkey.

He is lowly not just because He rides a low animal.

6 So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them.

This is the simple, proper action of any disciple...obedience.  
And they find it just as Jesus said.

We follow a King that can be trusted and must be obeyed.

7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set *Him* on them.(clothes) 8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road. 9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:"Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"

In 538 BC, the angel Gabriel gave Daniel a prophecy in 9:25

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

(Harold Hoehner and scholars calculated this to be 483 years.)

10 And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" 11 So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."  
Moved is the same word for "quaked".

12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

So Jesus doesn't drive out the Gentiles...

...He drives out Jews who are keeping Gentiles out.

13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "

Jesus is referring to a couple of interesting passages.

Jeremiah 7:8 "Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. 9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, 10 and *then* come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations'? 11 Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen *it*," says the Lord.

The idea is Jews would sin during the week and then come and "hide out" in the temple and think they were safe.

Anyone can come and confess their sin and be forgiven.

...But a heart that practices sin cannot confess sin...  
... because confession is a heart level agreement with God.

Isaiah 56:3

3 Do not let the son of the foreigner  
Who has joined himself to the Lord  
Speak, saying,  
"The Lord has utterly separated me from His people";  
Nor let the eunuch say,  
"Here I am, a dry tree."  
4 For thus says the Lord:  
"To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths,  
And choose what pleases Me,  
And hold fast My covenant,  
5 Even to them I will give in My house  
And within My walls a place and a name  
Better than that of sons and daughters;  
I will give them an everlasting name  
That shall not be cut off.  
6 "Also the sons of the foreigner  
Who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him,  
And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants—  
Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath,  
And holds fast My covenant—  
7 Even them I will bring to My holy mountain,  
And make them joyful in My house of prayer.  
Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices

*Will be accepted on My altar;  
For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”  
8 The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says,  
“Yet I will gather to him  
Others besides those who are gathered to him.”*

They had taken away the opportunity for all nations to come...  
...by filling it with a swap meet.

The church in the same way is a place for all people.

—People that know Him and come to His house should honor His name...and they were not.

—And people that don't know Him should be able to come and seek His name...and they were not allowing that.

*14 Then **the** blind and **the** lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant 16 and said to Him, “Do You hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise’?” 17 Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there.*