

Matthew 21.1-27 - Sermon Notes - October 17, 2021

JESUS BEGINS HIS FINAL WEEK

1. (1-11) THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

- Jesus had been ministering now for a little over 3 years, and is now making His final trip into Jerusalem
- He had been telling His disciples for the last few weeks what was awaiting Him at Jerusalem (see [Matthew 20.17-19](#))
- as Jesus descended the Mount of Olives, a great crowd had gathered
 - this was the Passover season, and some have estimated that there may have been a couple of million people in the Jerusalem area
- up to this point, Jesus had shunned the public eye, often telling folks that His time had not yet come
- now, on what is traditionally known as Palm Sunday, Jesus makes His very public entrance into the city of Jerusalem, riding on a donkey
- this is an amazing event, and we see 3 Old Testament prophecies coming together.
 - First, approximately 550 years earlier, Zechariah spoke of this event in [Zechariah 9.9](#)
 - Secondly, about 400 years before Zechariah, David wrote about this very special day in [Psalm 118.24-26](#)
 - Luke actually gives us a little more detail about this day in [Luke 19.41-42](#)
 - Lastly, Daniel gave the precise day in which this event would take place in [Daniel 9.24-26](#)
 - The “weeks” that Daniel is talking about are “weeks” of years, or groups of seven years. In Daniel’s day, the Babylonians had a 360 day calendar (not 365 days). From the decree to rebuilt Jerusalem, there would be 69 “weeks” of years, or 483 x 360 days, or 173,880 days. Artaxerxes was the one who made the decree and it has been documented in history as happening on March 14, 445 B.C., and if you follow the prophecy, it ends at April 6, 32 A.D., the day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

2. (12-17) JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

- the religious leaders were ripping the people off as they came to worship because they would always find some reason to call what the worshipper was bringing unclean
- then, they would force them to buy something "approved," which they sold at very high prices
 - unfortunately, there are still those today who seek to fleece the flock, while they themselves live very extravagant lifestyles
- Jesus comes in and cleans house
- Jon Courson says that there are four lessons to learn from this event
 - our corporate gatherings should be a place of prayer
 - our gatherings should be a place where people are helped
 - there should be a demonstration of God's power (they saw the wonderful things that Jesus did)
 - it should be a place of praise

3. (18-22) THE FIG TREE

- after leaving Jerusalem, and spending the night in Bethany, Jesus heads back to Jerusalem on Monday morning
- seeing a fig tree, He looked for fruit, but found none
- The fig tree is an illustration of Israel
 - Jesus is coming to look for fruit. God has shown up and is looking to see how His fig tree is producing.
 - He's also looking for fruit in our lives as well. (John 15:8)
- the disciples were amazed that the fig tree withered so quickly
- Jesus uses the occasion to teach His guys 3 important lessons that we need to learn today
 - faith, trust in God, and the power of prayer

4. (23-27) CONFRONTATION WITH THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

- now the final confrontation with the religious leaders as they question Jesus about the events of the day before
 - who gives you the right to do what you did?
- he turns their question into one of His own - tell Me, where did John the Baptist get His authority?

