

~~Palm~~ ^{Fern} Sunday

Cleaning House and Cursing Figs

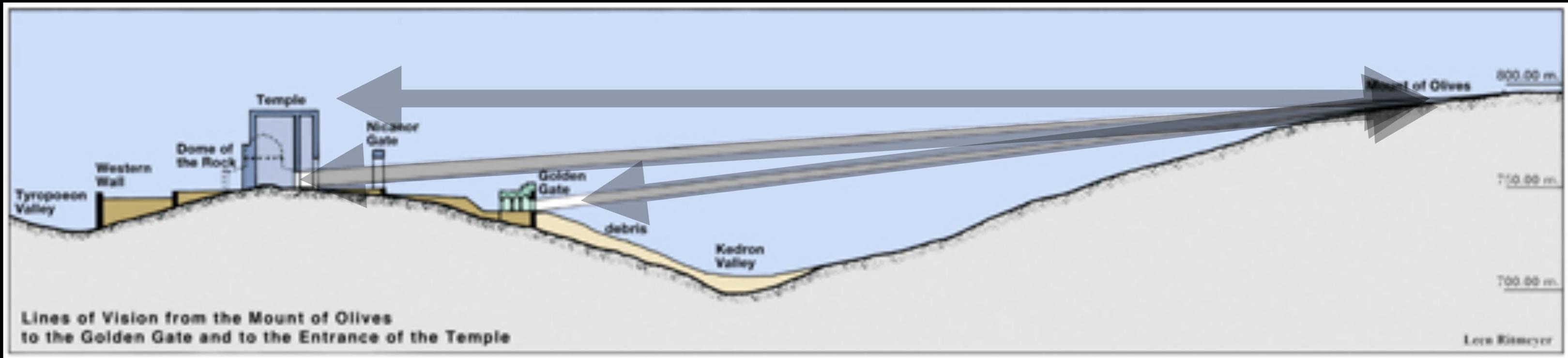
Matthew 21:1-22

Backdrop: Passover time

- Locals
 - Religious leaders
 - Roman lockers
- Passover pilgrims
 - Families traveling with their Passover lambs ([Exodus 12:3-6](#)), priests inspecting as they entered...

Jerusalem

Mount of Olives



Matthew 21:1–6 NKJV

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.

Matthew 21:1–6 NKJV

3 "And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." 4 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.' "

Donkey Discourse: Meekness Over Majesty

Ancient Custom:

In the Middle Eastern world, leaders rode horses to war but donkeys if they came in peace. This is evidenced in **1 Kings 1:33**, **Judges 5:10, 10:4, 12:14**, and **2 Samuel 16:2**.

Zechariah 9:9 NKJV –

"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.

Donkey Discourse: Meekness Over Majesty

Jesus wept over their lack of understanding, foreseeing Jerusalem's destruction ([Luke 19:41-47](#) see [Daniel 9](#) for timing).

Spiritual before Physical (see [Rev 19](#))

Prophecy Fulfilled - [Daniel 9:24-27](#); [Isaiah 53](#)

Palm Sunday Tension:

Hosanna → Crucify (Matt 21:9; 27:22–23)

Right praise ≠ right heart (Matt 7:21)

Do I want the real Jesus?

Matthew 21:7-8 NKJV

7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.

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.

Matthew 21:7-11

Garments of Praise... - Isaiah 61:3, 10, 11

Jehu anointed with similar - 2 Kings 9:13

Foreshadowing - Revelation 7:9-17

Messianic Announcement - 2 Samuel 7:14; 2 Kings 6:26; Psalm 118:24

Sorrow and Compassion - Luke 19:41-44

Garments of Praise... - Isaiah 61:3 NKJV

To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

Matthew 21:7-11 - Palm Principles

Grab a Palm fern...

- The Message: Hosanna! = Save now!
(Ps 118:25–26)
- Even Rocks would cry out! (Luke 19:40,
Psalm 148:7-13, Psalm 96:11-12)
- Messianic recognition (2 Sam 7:12–16)

Matthew 21:7-11 - Palm Principles

Grab a Palm fern...

- Spontaneous, organic, everyday praise, for Jesus, with Jesus, pointing others to Jesus.
- Organic vs Organized
- Worship Event vs Existence

Matthew 21:9-11 NKJV

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!" 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."

The Prophetic Arc

Past: "Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD."

(Ps 118:25-26)

The Prophetic Arc

Past: Ps 118:25-26

Present: "Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the
LORD! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matt 21:9)

Future: "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (Rev 7:9-10)

Matthew 21:7-11 - Palm Principles

Grab a ~~Palm~~ fern...

- Jesus is ruling, not reacting (John 10:18; Luke 19:30–31)
- Prophecy fulfilled (Zech 9:9; Dan 9:25–26)
- Public praise ≠ true submission (Matt 7:21)
- Do I want the King or comfort?

Matthew 21:12-14 NKJV

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.

Matthew 21:14

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.' "

14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

Cleanses the Temple = Inward Corruption

Psalm 69:9 - "Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me."

Isaiah 56:7 - "house of prayer for all nations"

Revelation 1:13-16 - His presence is the correction and answer

(Cleaning House 1st time = John 2:13-22)

The King Cleans House

Temple reveals the heart

Commerce replaced worship ([Isa 56:7](#); [Mark 11:17](#))

Prayer blocked, Jesus overturns tables ([Jer 7:11](#))

Removes corruption and Restores true worship

The King Cleans House

Removes what doesn't belong

Restores what does ([Matt 21:14](#))

What would He overturn in you? ([1 Cor 3:16](#))

Matthew 21:15-17 NKJV

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

Matthew 21:15-17 NKJV

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.

Matthew 21:18-22 NKJV

18 Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry.

19 And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away.

Matthew 21:18-22 NKJV

20 And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?" 21 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.

Matthew 21:1-22 NKJV

22 "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

Warning Against Religious Appearance Without Fruit

Represented Israel (Hosea 9:10)

(See also Psalm 1-2; 2 Kings 19:30)

Abide and bear fruit - John 15:16; Gal 5:22

Don't settle for fig leaves. (Gen. 3)

“They tolerated temple greed but were angered by praises for Jesus. Children's genuine relationship with God and spiritual life remind us of God's sanctification in a childlike way” -Spurgeon

Two Entries

First: Savior (donkey)

Second: King ([Rev 19:11–16](#))

Response now matters ([Rev 1:7](#))

Take Aways

1. Know Him, not just praise (John 17:3)
2. Let Him cleanse everything (Heb 12:28–29)
3. Be an invitation (2 Cor 5:20)

Share — Be living proof of the Gospel through your words, actions, and character. Worship and live in such a way that it invites the world to know Jesus.

Prayer — Pray for open doors this week to share with your neighbors and loved ones. Pray that we would put eternal things above temporary comforts, using our time, talents, and treasures to build His kingdom now.

Hosanna!

‘Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord!’

The King of Israel!

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Good Friday

7 Cross Statements

1. Father, **forgive** them, they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)
2. "This day you will be **with me** in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)
3. "Woman, **behold** your son." (John 19:26-27)

4. "My God, My God, why have you **forsaken** me?" (Mark 15:34; Matthew 27:46)

5. "I **thirst**." (John 19:28)

6. "It is **finished**." (John 19:30)

7. "Into your hands I **commit my spirit**."
(Luke 23:46)

1. Forgiveness

Luke 23:34 - Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**"

**The Soldiers Cast Lots for Jesus'
Clothing**
(Mark 15:24)

2. Restoration

11 a.m. - Jesus and the Criminal

Luke 23:40-43 - But the other criminal rebuked him.

"Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

3. Loving Others

Jesus Speaks to Mary and John

John 19:26-27 - When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "**Woman, he is your son.**" And he said to this disciple, "**She is your mother.**" And from then on this disciple took her into his home. (NLT)

4. Death is Separation

1 p.m.

Jesus Cries Out to the Father

Matthew 27:46 - And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (NKJV)

5. Quenching of Thirst

Jesus is Thirsty

John 19:28-29 - Jesus knew that everything was now finished, and to fulfill the Scriptures he said, "I am thirsty."

Fully God fully man

6. The Finality of Freedom

2 p.m.

It is Finished

John 19:30a - When Jesus had tasted it, he said,

"It is finished!"

7. Surrender

Luke 23:46 - Jesus called out with a loud voice,

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

When he had said this, He breathed His last.

1. Forgiveness
2. Restoration
3. Loving Others
4. Death is Separation
5. Quenching of Thirst / Humanity
6. The Finality of Freedom / Diety
7. Surrender

No one has greater love than this:
to lay down his life for his friends.

- John 15:3

For God so loved the world
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him
should not perish
but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

...look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.-

Hebrews 12:2

Philippians 2:6-11 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:6-11 ...Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Good Friday by Jack Arnold

Today we remember with solemn
celebration

Communion's plan from before creation

Attempting to reel in the drifting ethereal

To make real, to digest this material

To remember that God became a man
Died my death so I would live His plan
To remember all He said, did, and gave
From Majesty's throne grace would pave
The way from a shepherd's stable to an
empty grave.

Washing feet at that table, His mission would
save

To live, cry, and heal,
to serve, bless, to preach with zeal

Oh, that God became a man was tempted
and pure

Death was the disease, and He is our cure.

From the cradle to the temple and the walks
by the sea

Calling His disciples, all to set them free

Agony and pain from the Garden to the cross

Despising the shame but for the love of the
lost

Trials, mocking, scorching, beating, crown of
thorns He wore

The curse redeemed nailed to the cross it
was our sins He bore

Seven things at Calvary He declared for us to
hear

Seven things reserved for that cross to make
dear

Magnified strong by Golgotha's lens
These hearts of murder He would now
cleanse
Love on display more powerful than all
Love so sacrificial willing to fall

Paid in full, sins sting is no more
Death now defeated, where is your roar?
This conquering king
This Jesus we sing
We remember that empty tomb
Thankful He is coming soon.

So, make it real, make it stick
past the emotions make it click
build us up brick by brick
not just the rituals or the politic
But the gospel laying this new foundation
By Grace through the Spirit a new creation.
So set free to live because you died
Filled up to love in you we reside

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. -2 Cor 5:21

...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed. -1 Peter 2:24

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. -Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death, ... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. -Romans 6:23

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. -Romans 5:8

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

-Romans 8:1-2

if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved... -Romans 10:9-10