

## Matthew 21 “Enter: The Messiah”

Stand Read Matthew 21:1-5 Pray.

We are now entering to Jesus last week of earthly ministry. Today begins what has been called the “Passion” week. Titled that by the Catholics as they focus on His suffering throughout the week prior to easter Sunday. The real focus is that Jesus will present Himself to the Nation as their Messiah only to be tested and rejected by the religious leaders and finally delivered to the Romans to die on a cross just as he predicted. We will learn about this rejection and what it means as we go through this chapter.

### The Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21:1-11

Now before we get into the prophetic significance of all this let me remind you of the way that God worked through the prophets of old. Many times, they would be told to go find something tangible and mundane and would be right where He said it would be and then they would use it to point out a specific Prophecy. Sometimes they were two-fold. A near fulfillment and a far. Here Jesus tells them to go find a colt. Not, just any but one that has not been ridden on that was still with its mom. Now, just imagine the thought in their minds as they were bringing Him the colt and its mom. Maybe you should try it out. Just go find a young donkey that has never been trained or ridden on and jump on him and see what happens! Yeah, let’s see that on Facebook. Now

Matthew adds the fact that even this was a fulfillment of Prophecy.

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.

What is amazing is this prophecy is linked to the true meaning of His first coming. Kings and Conquerors came on horses. They marched in with armies and much pomp to show their power and authority. Jesus would not be that King this time around. He will one day!

Revelation 19:11

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

See, two-fold. On this Monday's Apologetics in Prophecy Podcast on Daniel I will be talking about the many types and shadows that link to prophecy and point to the fact that this book is supernatural and can be trusted.

Another important lesson we need to learn is how fickle people are. Things haven't changed. In all this excitement the large

crowds there for Passover got into it and shouted for the Messiah. Many of these same folks six days later will be shouting “Crucify Him!” Now we know from John’s gospel they were cutting down Palm Branches which were all signs of royalty. Now they understood this as Jesus presenting Himself as the Messiah by what they shouted. It is what is known as a messianic Psalm.

Psalm 118:25-26

Save now (Hosanna), 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.

There are two things not mentioned in Matthew’s gospel which are to note. Both are from Luke’s account. First...

Luke 19:39-40

And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”

This is where we get all the songs, we sing about the rocks crying out. They will one day...

Isaiah 55:12

For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

But the most important thing that happened is what Jesus was doing as he was riding into the city...

Luke 19:41-44

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

We believe that this day is the day foretold by Daniel that ends the 69<sup>th</sup> year. From this point forward we are in the gap of the Church age that no one knows the day that it will end. The final seven-year period will begin after the end of the period we are in at the rapture of the Church. We will dig into that when we get to it in Daniel but now what happens next...

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Matthew 21:12-17

A couple things to note on this. This is not the first time this has happened. Jesus did this early on in His ministry in John 2:13-22. The other thing is that we need to remember that some gospel writers are not putting things in exact chronological order. Mark says this happened on the second day. Not to be worried.

Matthew is using the Hebrew method of theme by theme and not day by day as Mark. So again, no need to throw out your bibles. It is interesting that Jesus got so mad. Why? We need to remember that God's plan for Israel was to be a light to the world of the one true God. They were to allow anyone who wants to come and worship Him, and that place was the outer court of the temple area. Today it is known as the Temple Mount and was huge during the time of Jesus. The problem is that the Jewish leaders had turned it into a marketplace that was ripping people off and discouraging people who came to pray that could not enter in any closer to the temple itself. Jesus quotes two verses...

Isaiah 56:7

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.

Jeremiah 7:11

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 Beautiful thing that Matthew brings up is those that He was defending in casting out the money Changers are the ones who could only come as far as this court. Jesus heals them and they shout out Psalm 118 some more. But the rulers got upset! Jesus then quotes more scripture to them...

Psalm 8:2

Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants  
You have ordained strength,  
Because of Your enemies,  
That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

The Fig Tree

Matthew 21:18-22

There are two lessons here. One is that Israel is the Fig tree because it has failed to produce fruit. We will see that in a minute in the parables He will share to the leaders. Two is one of faith. We don't have much time today to teach on praying and faith but here is one verse to remind us...

1 John 5:14-15

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

Jesus Authority Questioned

Matthew 21:23-27

The leaders came to Him and right away wanted to know where He got His authority. Jesus could see them coming a mile away!

This was not an honest question. It wouldn't matter what Jesus said as they would not have believed Him, nor obeyed Him. They had rejected John; they have already rejected Jesus. The same happens to us. The religious leaders of our world today always ask where we get our authority. Who gave you your authority? Where are your credentials? My calling comes from God by His Spirit and my credentials are the Word of God! Now He answers them with three Parables and we will look at two today and the third next week.

### The Parable of the Two Sons Matthew 21:28-32

This first one deals with two types of workers, and he gives the definition to the two types. He shows them that they are those that refused to work as He relates their rejection of John's message. John's was a message of repentance and many that were Baptized did just that. The rulers did not think they needed to repent and that was their problem. Now He will really let them have it!

### The Parable of Wicked Vinedressers Matthew 21:33-44

Jesus uses the analogy of the vineyard to the Nation of Israel and their calling to produce fruit. We know this from Isaiah 5...

### Israel God's Vineyard Isaiah 5:1-7

Now let me sing to my Well-beloved  
A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard:  
My Well-beloved has a vineyard  
On a very fruitful hill.

2 He dug it up and cleared out its stones,  
And planted it with the choicest vine.  
He built a tower in its midst,  
And also made a winepress in it;  
So He expected it to bring forth good grapes,  
But it brought forth wild grapes.

3 “And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah,  
Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard.

4 What more could have been done to My vineyard  
That I have not done in it?  
Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes,  
Did it bring forth wild grapes?

5 And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned;  
And break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

6 I will lay it waste;  
It shall not be pruned or dug,  
But there shall come up briars and thorns.  
I will also command the clouds  
That they rain no rain on it.”

7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel,  
And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant.  
He looked for justice, but behold, oppression;  
For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.



They answered correctly in verse 41 and right away Jesus shows them that they are those wicked vinedressers. It is very interesting because the very Psalm that prophesied of His coming that they sung as He rode into town is the same one that said...

Psalm 118:22-23

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Of Course, it was not lost on them!

Matthew 21:45-46

Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.

Wow! Instead of receiving His testimony they decided to just kill Him! But before we just throw them under the bus, we have to ask ourselves if we have allowed religion to become our master and not God. It could happen to any of us, and the first sign is when we no longer are producing the fruit of the Spirit. Jesus would leave His disciples this teaching for us to consider...

Stay Connected to the Vine!

John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Maybe you are not even connected to the vine and need to be grafted in. You can be today by putting your faith and trust in Him.  
Stand and Pray