
the One and Only Blessed One

Ch.21

The Triumphal Entry

- ✠ Fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9
- ✠ “Hosanna to the **Son of David!** Blessed is **He who comes in the name of the Lord!** Hosanna in the highest!”
- ✠ The whole city was moved, saying,

“Who is this?”

- the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”

- ✠ Jesus is the One who cleanses the Temple
- He was putting it in their face, pricking their hardened hearts!
- Hitting them with Scripture:
- “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of thieves.”
- “Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants, you have perfected praise.”
-

The Lesson of the Withered Fig Tree

- ✠ Taking the context of where He just cleansed the temple, all of the hypocrisy, Jesus put an emphatic exclamation point to what He wanted His disciples to see...
 - The fig tree represents the bloom of an outward maturity; but He condemned the tree for its fruitlessness; an outward appearance without the inward reality of MERCY is / will be condemned by the Son of David.
- ✠ What was it good for when the Lord was hungry?
- ✠ What made the fig tree wither? The One who died and rose, the Holy One who is the Reality of the Temple, visited and looked for faithful fruitfulness, found none and as a result cursed that which did not produce fitting with Grace and Truth.

Jesus’ Authority Questioned

- ✠ “By what authority...”
- ✠ But Jesus answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one thing...The baptism of John – where was it from? From heaven or from men?”
 - Discussion: The identity of repentance (John’s baptism), what authenticated it?
- **Discussion:** By what authority do you make your life decisions? How are we choosing our life purpose and all that drives our major pursuits, endeavors, and lifestyles?
- When Christ has the authority, we can boldly state that John’s baptism was from heaven. When we have been immersed in the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, when Christ’s identity has taken over us, we are aligned with the heavenly identity.

The Parable of the 2 Sons

- ✠ Is Jesus not really putting it in the face of the hypocrites?
- ✠ It’s not what you say, it’s the action. Just like the fig tree, are you bearing fruit?
- ✠ Jesus is hungry for fruit.
- ✠ God, help me! Make me fruitful!

The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers

- † Mistreatment of the Landowners servants is due to the rejection of the Capstone, the Chief Cornerstone of the King of Mercy.
- Think back to Jesus' words to Peter, "...on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- God's people will not be built on anything but the Chief Cornerstone, the Rock of Salvation!
- † The Landowner's Son confronted and spoke harsh words to the vinedressers but then went to the cross for their sins.
- † How can you humble yourself tttthhhhhhaaaaatttttt mmmmmuuuuucccchhhh!!!!!! Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
- † The kingdom was taken from the vinedressers (national Israel – any institution of man that has only an outward appearance of godliness) and given to a nation bearing the fruits of the kingdom (any peoples who have the inward reality of grace and truth and the manifestations of God's mercy and justice).

Ch.22

The Parable of the Wedding Feast

- † The kingdom is like a king who arranged a marriage for his son. Note Jesus' choice of illustration of marriage.
- † The wedding is ready.
- † But those invited made the following mistakes:
 - not willing to come
 - made light of the wedding, went their own ways – to farm and business
 - did not put on the wedding garment
- † The King was furious; sent out armies to destroy those murderers and burned up their city; those invited were not worthy.
- † Many are called, but few are chosen. Identification which is authenticated by the love, mercy, and justice of God will reject many and accept the few who do not make light of the kingdom.

After being filleted by Jesus, the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him and His talk...

“Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?”

- † **Discussion:** How does God's law align with the rules and regulations of today? What does Jesus' answer reveal about His perspective on the rules and regulations of the times?

The Sadducees: What about the Resurrection?

- † Primary focus: “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures not the power of God... ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’ God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”
- † What does it mean to know the power of God?
- † What was Abraham credited righteousness for?
- † What did Isaac's life testify to?
- † What happened in Jacob's life that testified to the power of God?

The Scribes: Which is the First Commandment of All?

- † What can we learn about the King from His response to this question?
- **ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS HANG ON THESE**

2 COMMANDMENTS!

Jesus: How can David call His Descendant Lord?

- † “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?”
- † How can the Christ be both the Lord of David and the Son of David? See Revelation 22:16.

- † **Discussion:** What is the thought here carried through these 2 chapters? Go back to the beginning of chapter 21 and follow the contentious confrontations between the religious authorities and the Messiah.

Discussion: What do you think about Christ? Who do you say the Christ is? What do you mean when you proclaim Him as the Son of God? Can we say He is our Lord and brother?

...And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Ch.23

Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees

- † “Do all that they tell you, but do not do what they do.”
† Jesus proclaims the fullness of God’s wrath against the hypocrisy that comes from blindness to the Messiah!

Jesus Laments over Jerusalem

- † “...the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together...”

Looking over these 2 passages, who is Jesus? What more do we learn about the Son / Lord of David.

“Who is this?”

23:39 – “...you shall see Me no more till you say, *“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”*”

The King’s identity is not revealed until the heart testifies and proclaims the Blessed Identity of the Son of David who is hungry for mercy and justice!