

Matthew 21

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • July 18, In the year of our Lord, 2018

I. Matthew 21.1–9 | The King Enters Jerusalem

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.” **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.’”

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

- A. Why do you think the owner of the donkey would let the donkey go?
- B. What is the significance of the King of Zion entering on a donkey?
- C. What is the significance of bringing both the donkey and the colt?
- D. Why did the people spread their cloths and branches on the road?
- E. From what passage did the crowd quote?
- F. Who did the crowd think Jesus was?

II. Matthew 21.10–11 | The King Is Jesus of Nazareth

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.”

A. The expectation of the people was high.

III. Matthew 21.12–13 | A Den of Thieves or A House of Prayer

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. 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.’”

A. Why did Jesus take such action as we have not seen before?

B. How had they made the temple of God a den of thieves?

C. What was God’s house to be called?

IV. Matthew 21.14–16 | Babes and Infants Praise Jesus

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?’”

A. What else did Jesus do in the temple?

B. Why were the chief priests and scribes indignant when the children said, “Hosanna to the Son of David”?

C. Why do babies and infants perfect praise?

V. Matthew 21.17–22 | The Power of Faith

17 Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there. 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. 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. 22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

A. Jesus did not spend the night in Jerusalem.

1. He lodged in Bethany.
2. Someone must have put Him up for the night or He stayed at an Inn.

B. Was Jesus angry at the fig tree?

1. Why did He curse it?
2. How did the disciples react to the withering?

C. Did Jesus speak of Himself as the Creator in response to the disciples?

1. If not, how did He respond?
2. What is faith capable of doing?

VI. Matthew 21.23–44 | The Authority of Jesus

23 Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?” 24 But Jesus answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: 25 The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?” And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ 26 But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.” 27 So they answered Jesus and said, “We do not know.” And He said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. 28 But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ 29 He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. 30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said to Him, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him. 33 Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who

planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. 34 Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. 35 And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. 37 Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' 39 So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. 40 Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" 41 They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." 42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

**'The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.
This was the LORD'S doing,
And it is marvelous in our eyes'?**

43 Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. 44 And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

- A. Why were the chief priests and elders concerned about authority?
1. Should we be concerned with authority?
 2. What does it mean to confess Jesus as Lord?
 3. Why do atheists deny the existence of God?
- B. When should you answer a question with a question?
1. Why did Jesus answer their question with a question?
 2. Why did Jesus refuse to answer their question after they could not answer His question?
 3. What did their refusal to answer show?
- C. Why did Jesus then introduce the parable of the two sons, one of whom repented and the other did not?

1. What does it have to do with the problem of the chief priests and elders and scribes?
 2. Did He reveal to them that their problem was not intellectual, so that it was not that they could not answer the question, but would not.
 3. They did not have an intellectual problem, but a heart problem.
- D. Why do tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before the Jewish leaders would?
1. Jesus took them back to John.
 2. They would not submit to John's baptism, but the tax collectors and harlots did.
- E. What did Jesus want the leaders to see with the parable of the landowner?
1. What did they conclude the landowner should do?
 2. Did they realize that they just condemned themselves?
- F. What did Jesus reveal from the Scriptures that they had done?
1. What then would be taken away from them?
 2. To whom would the kingdom of God be given?
 3. Why would it be given to that nation?
- G. What did Jesus mean with His declaration in verse 44?

VII. Matthew 21.45–46 | The Pharisees Got the Point

45 Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. 46 But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.

- A. Has a preacher ever stepped on your toes?
- B. If so, what did you do?
- C. Did their fear of the multitudes keep the leaders from opposing Jesus?