

***SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS*****The Son of David Comes to Jerusalem****Matthew 21:1-46**

*"Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"* Matthew 21:5

**Day 1: Read Matthew 21.**

1. Up until now Jesus and his disciples have been in northern Israel. Now he has made a significant shift to the south, to Jerusalem.

Why? (Mt. 26:17)

Where do they stay? (v. 17) With whom? (Jn. 12:1-3)

2. Read Psalm 118:1-29.

Several times in this week's chapter Psalm 118 is quoted. This is a Psalm that is traditionally sung during the Passover celebrations. Why might this be? (\* To learn about Passover read Ex.15:1-21.)

**Day 2: Read Matthew 21:1-11.**

3. The pilgrims on the road with Jesus are caught up in the excitement of the moment. What conclusions do they jump to when they see Jesus riding the colt? (Zech. 9: 9-10; 1 Ki. 1:32-35; Jer. 23:5, 6)

4. "A conquering king parades triumphantly into a city with all the trappings of glory and power."  
(Turner, David L. and Bock, Darrell L. *Matthew, Mark*: Carol Stream, Illinois: Tyndale House, 2006, p. 267)

What aspects of this 'Triumphal Entry' indicate that Jesus is a very different kind of king than what the crowds expect?

5. Jesus has told the disciples what to expect when they finally come to Jerusalem. What is going to happen? (16:21; 20:17-19) How do the crowds' expectations clash with what Jesus has told his disciples will happen in Jerusalem?

What kind of "coronation" awaits Jesus in Jerusalem? (Mt. 27:28-30; 33-37)

**Day 3: Read Matthew 21:12-17.**

6. How does Jesus exercise his authority as king? (vv. 12-13)

7. Why does Jesus condemn the temple and its leadership? (v.13; 15:7-9; Jer.7:9-11)

\* The  symbol identifies verses for further study.

8. What is Jesus' act of cleansing and judgment pointing forward to? (Mt. 24:1-2)
9. In what ways does Jesus' presence in the temple restore it to a place of wholeness, inclusion and worship? (vv. 14-16)
10. What gives him the right to take over the temple in this way? (v.13; Mt. 3:16-17; 12: 6-8, 18)

**Day 4: Read Matthew 21:18-46.**

11. What is the cursing of the fig tree really all about? (v. 43, 45; 3:7-10)
12. Why can't/won't the chief priests and elders answer Jesus' question about where his authority is from (v. 25)?

What heart issues does Jesus expose?

13. The parables of the two sons and the tenants are aimed directly at the powerful religious elite in Jerusalem. What do the religious leaders have in common with the second son? (v.30)

The evil farmers? (vv. 34-39)

14. The religious leaders believed they were pleasing God by their religious practice. In reality their hearts were filled with evil and hypocrisy. How can we safeguard our hearts from the same deception? (Heb.3:12-15)

**Day 5: Read Matthew 21:18-46.**

15. What is God looking for in those who claim to be his people? (vv. 29, 32, 41b, 43)
16. The arrival of the new Kingdom means the old must go—the temple, the sacrifices, the priesthood, the traditions. What will Jesus' role be in building the new kingdom? (v. 42; Eph.2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-7)
17. What must we have if we are to participate with Jesus in this grand but difficult building project? (v.21; Mt.17:20; Rom 4:18, 20-21; Phil.1:6)