

A Different Kingdom

The Son of David Comes to Jerusalem Matthew 21

“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

1. Read Matthew 21. Why has Jesus led the disciples to Jerusalem? (Matthew 16:21) Where and with whom do they stay? (verse 17; John 12:1–3)
2. Read Psalm 118:1–29. Why do you think that this psalm, which is traditionally sung during Passover, is quoted by Matthew in chapter 21?
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? (Zechariah 9: 9–10; 1 Kings 1:32–35; Jeremiah 23:5–6)
4. Jesus has told the disciples what to expect when they finally come to Jerusalem. What is going to happen? (Matthew 16:21; 20:17–19) What kind of “coronation” awaits Jesus in Jerusalem? (Matthew 27:28–30, 33–37)
5. How does Jesus exercise his authority as king? (verses 12–13) Why does Jesus condemn the temple and its leaders? (verse 13; Matthew 15:7–9; Jeremiah 7:9–11)
6. What is Jesus’ act of cleansing and judgment pointing forward to? (Matthew 24:1–2)
7. What gives Jesus the right to take over the temple in this way? (verse 13; 3:16–17; 12:6–8, 18)

8. What is the cursing of the fig tree really all about? (verses 43, 45; Matthew 3:7–10)

9. Why do you think Jesus tells the “Parable of the Two Sons” at this point? How would you interpret the parable? Is there anything about the parable that applies to you?

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

11. What is God looking for in those who claim to be his people? (verses 29, 32, 41b, 43)

12. 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? (verse 42; Ephesians 2:19–22; 1 Peter 2:4–7)

13. What must we have if we are to participate with Jesus in this awesome but difficult building project? (verse 21; Matthew 17:20; Romans 4:18, 20–21; Philippians 1:6)