

Matthew 21:1-17

When the King Comes to Town (The King and His Kingdom)

Today we are entering into a new section of our King and Kingdom series

A)The King's Final Week – Matthew 21-28

B)One fourth of the entire real estate in the Book of Matthew is devoted to the final week of Jesus in going to the cross.

C)In our study this year we have seen Jesus the King exercise his authority as King over Nature: **Stilling storms**

1)Over demons.... Over death..... over the religious leaders – rebuking

D)But one thing we have not seen him do is really receive **any public displays of affection** toward his Kingly – authority

1)Any time the people would start to move in that direction to Prop him up as their King – **he would leave the area.**

Well that all changes in this Chapter.

A)Here in Chapter 21 Jesus actually orchestrates this whole event –

B)As people welcome him into Jerusalem as their King! –

Ch. 21 verse 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.**’”

Now this is interesting: This is maybe the first time that Jesus tells his disciples to do something – **abnormal** – that they don't ARGUE

A)When he said: **Throw net on the right side – Fished all night caught nothing**

B)When he said: **You feed them – We don't have enough**

1)They were always quick to argue and question – because they are a lot like us- **right!**

C)But here he says – go to this place and find a Donkey and a colt..... **THE LORD HAS NEED OF HIM!**

1)They just do it! - **Sign they are growing** –

Lets put this in Modern day terms for us.

A)The Lord says – go down to the Mall – right outside of Macy's see a man getting out of a Benz

B)Walk up to him and tell him you need to borrow his car – His Mercedes – He says why
1)Tell him the Lord has need of it! **I don't think I could do that!** –

C)Sometimes it is the things that seem the most irrational that God asks us to do

1)That are going to produce the most fruit!

Consider that Phrase - The Lord has need.....

A)That in and of itself is an interesting thought

B)The Lord and need – sounds like an Oxymoron – two ideas that don't go together.

1)The Lord and NEED? How can the Lord have need?

C)He has chosen to put Himself in a place where the primary way he works is through people.

1) He has chosen to partner with us to get his will and work done on earth and in lives!

D)Question is – Are we Available – Are we obedient when He calls – when he says go do we go

1)Do – do we do it – or do we procrastinate or give a bunch of reasons why we can't

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!”

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.”

So here we see the account of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem – Jesus orchestrated this event:

A)The question we want to consider today is why did he set this up – 3 REASONS

#1 To Reveal His Position – He is the King

A)He makes a triumphal entry – He picks a very strategic time – the Passover feast

B)At Passover the Population of the city of Jerusalem would swell dramatically

1)Historian Flavius Josephus tells us sometimes to five times its population base.

C) Josephus also says that one Passover around this era 256,000 lambs were sacrificed in the temple courts.

1)That’s over a quarter of million lambs.

The Jewish minimum was 10 people per one lamb

A)which would mean the population of could have swelled to about two and a half million people.

B)V. 10 says the city was Moved –

1)The Greek word translated “moved” is *seio* from which we get our word “seismic.”

C)In other words, Matthew writes that the whole city was “quaking”—not physically,

1)but mentally and emotionally— when Jesus made His entry. A BUZZ IN THE AIR

The Passover was an Annual holiday - Jews celebrate event that took place 1500 years earlier

A)Jews escaped Egypt - 400 years slavery

B)Series of plagues / 10th being death of firstborn in every home

1)only way a family could escape this tragedy is to have blood of lamb - mark top, sides & bottom of doorway

C)The marking formed a prophetic picture of a cross where another lamb –

1)Jesus the Lamb of God would die to save mankind from the curse of sin & death

D)So this was a very strategic time for Jesus to plan this- Maximum exposure – very symbolic

1)Triumphal entry – before the battle not AFTER!

#1 To Reveal his position- He makes a Kingly entrance

#2 To Fulfill Prophecy

A)Quotes - Zechariah 9:9 – V. 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.’ ”

B)The book of Zechariah was written 500 yrs before the coming of Christ.

1)He prophesied in detail the way the Messiah would enter Jerusalem

C)Not only that – this event took place on the 10th of Nisan – 32 A.D. Significance ?

Daniel the Prophet prophesied the very day this EVENT would take place in Daniel ch.9

A)173,880 days from the time that King Artaxerxes gave the decree to go and rebuild the City of Jerusalem.

B)I don’t have time to go into all of that today – but if you are interested Website or App check out studies in Daniel 9

C)So he came in this way to Reveal his position / Fulfill prophecy but also

#3 To Reveal His Person – V.5 ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”

Jesus chose to come in Humility –

A)When a Roman General or Emperor made a triumphal entry – Lots of pomp and pageantry

B)They would usually come on the back of a black or white stallion - uniforms/ Royal garments

1)Behind them would be their army – and behind them – THE CAPTURED

C)That was a Roman triumphal entry -

So I Picture the Roman Soldiers – Laughing/ mocking as “King Jesus comes to town.”

A) Because Jesus chose not a stallion - but a donkey

B) not royal garments - He came in humility and gentleness! - **opposite of SHOCK AND AWE**

C) He wasn't coming to intimidate - follow me or you will end up like those in chains

1) Jesus was coming to set people free – Not intimidation but Love!

D) So Jesus comes in Humility – a completely different kind of King -

1) Romans laughing – but to the Jewish people it didn't matter

D) They lined the road leading into Jerusalem –

1) Waving palm branches and yelling – HOSANNA = SAVE NOW – **don't care how – just do it....**
Deliver us from Roman Oppression

A) But Jesus had a bigger enemy in Mind – Sin / Satan / Death – Guilt

B) But the cry of Hosanna Save now – would turn to cries of Crucify him by the end of the week.

C) Fickle crowds – Watch him be arrested -no show of force – I guess this isn't our King !

So here we see the triumphal entry of Jesus – but notice what He does when He gets into the city.

A) He doesn't head for the Palace or even the Antonio Fortress - He goes to the temple of the Jews

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.’ ”

Every Passover in Jewish homes they went through a ceremonial “Spring Cleaning” –

A) The Jews would for one month carefully repair roads, rebuild bridges, even white wash tombs.

B) **Truly a Spring cleaning.** They'd even make sure they were ceremonially clean.

1) They just forgot to clean one thing...THE TEMPLE!!!

C) **That's like having guests over & cleaning every room except the living room.**

D) The Entry court – “court of the Gentiles was set up like a swap meet –

Three parts to the temple Courtyard – Closets to the Temple itself Court of the Jews – MEN ONLY

A) After that – court of women - then finally the court of the Gentiles

B) First court you would pass through – first impression –

1) and the closets a gentile could get to the temple.

C) The religious leaders set up – BAZAAR -

1) a money exchange Only Shekels – high exchange rate – rip off

D) Lamb inspections – Another rip off –

1) A lamb without blemish – Most people would have their hometown priest inspect before they left....

The whole set up was one that took advantage of people and was RUN by the religious leaders.

A) When Jesus saw it – His heart was greatly grieved.

B) That which was supposed to be a place for seeking God was turned into a **den of thieves**

C) So Jesus starts driving them out – What is going on here- **Opposite of triumphal entry meek lowly**

1) Didn't John the Baptist – call Jesus the Lamb of God

D) Lambs are not forceful – Never see signs on a yard

Beware – Attack Lamb - ☺

Well there were Two things in Jesus' ministry that upset Him –

A) **1st - God is being misrepresented and dishonored**

B)2nd - Is when His people are being ripped off and having heavy burdens thrown on them!

C)Both were happening here by the religious leaders

1)SO Jesus goes in and starts turning over tables Driving people out –

D)And- Get this –no one tries to stop him – Not the religious leaders –

1)not the TEMPLE GUARDS

E)Show of his Kingly authority – everyone just watched.

And Note this is the 2nd time that he has done this.

A)The first time was almost 3 years before at the beginning of his ministry – John 2 – Same thing

B)Straight to the temple – drives out the

C)Application: Well the Bible says that our hearts are a temple too – temple of the Holy Spirit

1)the Lord has to come and overturn the tables of my life.

D)And although I wish this were a one-time process, it's not.

1)Just when I think I've learned a lesson, just when I think – got it together

E)suddenly **I find the old junk back in my temple once again.**

1)Then the Lord comes in faithfully and deals with it radically.

So when the King comes to town – His first stop is the Temple – Cleansing time. –

A)Watch what happens next

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'?"

17 Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there.

B)When the temple gets clean – God's power is released!!! – Always the way that it is

We are a temple of God – This Church family – this place where we gather –

A)This event gives us tremendous insight in what the Church is to be. – 4 things

#1 A place of prayer: 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)A place for seeking God – drawing near to God – getting real with God pouring out our hearts to God

B) A Place where everything is moving us in that direction – Jesus is the answer

1) A place for getting real with God pouring out our hearts to God

C)If you can't be REAL here – You can't be real anywhere.

#2 A place of healing 14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

A)The blind and the lame came to Jesus in the temple and He healed them.

B)So, too, we who have been spiritually blinded and we who are lame-brained

1)should be able to come into this place and hear the Word, study the Scriptures, receive help and healing.

C)Not only Spiritual needs but also – **Physical ones**

1)Elders anoint with oil – laying on of hands

#3 A place where Power is released: 15 But when the chief priests and scribes saw the **wonderful things** that He did

A) The chief priests and scribes saw **the wonderful—or awesome—things He did.**

B)This is to be a place of transformation – God's power being released through His Word –

C)God moving on hearts – transformation happening –

1)Awesome stories of transformation – walking miracles

#4 A place where praise is expressed: 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’?**”

This house must be a place where such praise is expressed.

A) Interesting – Matthew pinpoints that the Children were praising – earlier their parents The same

B) Did they pick that up from their parents ?

C) Another reason he pinpoints the Children - ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants **You have perfected praise’?**”

Real worship takes child like faith!

A) Kids can worship any time -

B) It takes Child like faith to not look at circumstances and to look to the Lord

C) Child like faith – to believe that when everything around me is falling apart - Cancer diagnosis

1) Lost my Job

D) My kid is sick – Jesus is still the king and He is still on the throne –

1) I am going to praise him!!!!

We adults complicate this too much I think.

A) We come with reasons why – we can’t worship

B) Kids are quick to pray when there is a need – Kid to praise – and worship -

C) Kids tend to see the bigger picture – Jesus is God – He is King – He saved me –

1) Why wouldn’t I praise Him!!!

This place – Your heart – temple of the Holy Spirit is to be a place

#1 A place of prayer

#2 A place of healing

#3 A place where Power is released

#4 A place where praise is expressed

But before any of that can happen – Cleansing has to take place first

A) Save now – Cross – sins

B) Continues to save – continues to cleanse – today