

Together with Jesus

Week 11 – Matthew 21 and 22
Jerusalem, Jerusalem



Warm Up

How do you think Christianity has changed in the past 50 years?



Matthew 21:1-11

Triumphal Entry

Jesus enters Jerusalem with fanfare that assures that everyone in Jerusalem begins to talk about Him and ask who this is. As He does so, He fulfills prophecies that point to His true role as Messiah.



Question: Why do you suppose the crowd shows Jesus this honor? Is it instinct? Or statement?

Matthew 21:12-17

Cleansing the Temple

Matthew records Jesus' first act in Jerusalem as being the only violent act that we see from Jesus, the cleansing of the temple. After a short back-and-forth with the chief priests and the scribes, Jesus leaves Jerusalem for Bethany.



Question: Why do you suppose Jesus cares so much about a Temple that He Himself is replacing?

Matthew 21:18-32

Cursing the Fig Tree

On His way back into Jerusalem, Jesus encounters a foreshadowing fig tree that sets the tone for the next moments of His life during this second day in Jerusalem.

When He re-enters the temple, He is questioned again by the chief priests and the elders.



Question: How do you suppose the fig tree is a symbol of Jerusalem?



Question: What do you see as the overall point that Jesus is making in these three parables?

Matthew 21:28-22:14

Three Parables About Jerusalem

Matthew records three of Jesus' parables in a row, something that Matthew likes to do. While the three parables make different points, they are all pointed at the same root problem of Jerusalem.

Matthew 22:15-33

Testing Jesus

Two rival groups (the Pharisees and Sadducees) show up to Jesus in succession, asking Him questions meant to catch Him in some sort of theological or political trap. Jesus bests both of the groups, walking away having mystified them.



Question: What do you suppose the Pharisees or Sadducees had planned if they stumped Jesus?



Question: Why do you suppose this is the point that makes the Pharisees give up?

Matthew 22:34-46

Another Question and Rebuttal

The Pharisees seem to take the Sadducees failure as an opportunity to try again. As they do so, Jesus shuts them down once more, offering a question that stops the process of questioning Him all together.



Wrap Up

Jesus encounters challenges in Jerusalem. Where does He encounter challenges today?

Next week – Matthew 23 and 24