

King and Messiah Week 27 (Matthew 21:1-22)

Read Matthew 21:1-22

What subtle miracle demonstrates Jesus' divinity in verses 1-3?

In verses 4 and 5, Matthew points back to the prophet Zechariah. Read Zechariah 9:9-10 and discuss the significance of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey.

What kind of a scene do you see unfolding in verses 6 through 10?

What's the largest, craziest, most electric atmosphere you've ever been in? What made it so?

Why is our worship of Jesus so much more reserved and hesitant than how we react to other things (sports, concerts, milestones, etc.) we celebrate? What is the disconnect between the spiritual truth of salvation and our tangible response to it? How can we enlarge the fire in our hearts for worshipping Him?

Jesus was entering Jerusalem at the beginning of Passover week, where pilgrims could make the city swell to 500,000! And yet in verse 10, we find Jesus' entry was so powerful that the whole city was 'stirred up' causing people to ask the question: "Who is this?" What does that teach us about the connection between our worship and our witness?

Would most people recognize you as a follower of Christ? Do they recognize a tangible difference in the way you live because of Christ?

What is the purpose behind Jesus cleansing the temple in verses 12-17? (Isaiah 56:7, Jeremiah 7:9-11)

How can we prevent ourselves from becoming like the people described in Jeremiah 7:9-11?

Despite all the evidence they had seen, why do the religious leaders still remain indignant (v. 15)?

Based on Jesus' interactions at the temple, what does the fig tree symbolize?

What does Jesus say in verses 21 and 22 that is a bit surprising?

Why should verses 21 and 22 be both convicting and hopeful?

What is one truth from Matthew 21:1-22 you can meditate on or put into practice this week?

Other observations/questions/reflections on the text: