

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 21:

vs. 1-11:

Jesus sent His disciples into the village to get a doney and her colt. He then rode upon them, cushioned by the cloaks of the disciples, into Jerusalem, being praised by the crowd. The crowd threw down branches and cloaks in his path to honor Him. They acted this way for they regarded Him as the Messiah that God had promised centuries ago.

vs. 12-17:

Jesus entered the temple area and cast out those who were conducting business there. The animals that were sold were for sacrificial purposes and the moneychangers were present for Jews would come from all over the world to be present for the Passover celebration. Jesus rebuked them for taking advantage of the people in the house of the Lord (quoted Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:11).

Jesus healed the blind and lame and was praised by the children, who referred to Him as the Messiah. To all this, the chief priests and teachers of the law became upset, yet Jesus showed them from Psalm 8:2; how this was God's will. He then left for Bethany, to spend the night.

vs. 18-22:

The next morning, Jesus headed back to Jerusalem. He came upon a fig tree and desired some of its' fruit. Unfortunately, it had none. Therefore, Jesus cursed the tree and it died immediately.

The disciples were amazed and Jesus used the situation to impress upon them the importance of believing in God, when they asked things of Him.

vs. 23-27:

While Jesus was teaching in the temple, the chief priests and elders of the people confronted Him, asking who had given Him the power and authority to teach as He did. Rather than saying that God had given the authority, and in their mind He would have committed blasphemy, He asked them about John's baptism. They didn't want to speak their mind because they would be hated by the people, or condemn themselves in the process. When they refused to answer, Jesus did likewise.

vs. 28-32:

Jesus, through the parable of the 2 sons, demonstrated how even though the tax collectors and prostitutes had not done as God had asked originally, they finally did come to obey Him; whereas the religious leaders promised allegiance, but failed to follow through. In so doing, the ones regarded as "sinners" would be saved, and the so-called "righteous" would be condemned.

vs. 33-46:

Jesus, through the parable of the Tenants, demonstrated how the religious leaders (given responsibility by God), had refused to follow His leading and instead, had killed the prophets who spoke of God's will. Finally, they would kill God's own Son. They would then be condemned for their actions.

The chief priests and Pharisees, then set out to see how they could have Jesus put to death, for they did not appreciate His teaching.

STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 21:

1. What were 2 of Jesus' disciples to go, get, and bring to Him?
2. What did the very large crowd do in verse 8?
3. What did Jesus do when He entered the temple?
4. What caused the chief priests and teachers of the law to become indignant?
5. What happened when Jesus spoke to the fig tree?
6. How can we receive whatever we ask for in prayer?
7. What question did Jesus ask the chief priests and elders of the people?
8. Who did Jesus say was entering the Kingdom of God before the chief priests and elders of the people?
9. What did the tenants do to the landowners servants?
10. What did the tenants do to the son?
11. To whom, would the Kingdom be given?
12. Why were the chief priests and Pharisees, afraid of the crowd?

BONUS:

1. What lesson is there for Christians, in verses 1-11?
2. Are there any parallels between the temple in Jesus' day, and churches today? Explain.
3. What warning is there for Christians, from Jesus' parables in verses 28-40?