

Matthew 21:1 - 22:14 Who Is This?

▼Review/Intro

▼Review

- Is your relationship with God through Jesus based on the right or wrong question? We may want the right thing yet misunderstand the plan. We need Jesus-expectations and Jesus' plan if we want to be followers of Jesus.
- What does God owe you? Consider that in light of what He's already given you. What do you owe God? Consider that in light of what He's already given on your behalf.
- Jesus is in the business of saving and changing lives both now and for eternity. He calls us to follow Him in that and He sets the example. Seriously, follow Him. If you want a life like His, live like He did. That is His challenge.

▼Intro

▼Come to Holy Week, Passover Week.

- Lamb is presented and inspected.
- Lamb is sacrificed and consumed.
- Feast of Firstfruits

▼Setting the scene

- City and surrounding area is packed
- People traveling in singing Hallel Psalms.
- Bringing with them animals for inspection and sacrifice.
- Marketplaces busy, smell of foods, voices, animals, music, singing, other smells!

▼21:1-11

- Show map.
- 21:1-5 Miracle or prearranged? Not sure. Either way, fulfills scripture.

▼21:6-11

- Interesting image, grown man on a donkey.
- Getting the royal treatment. Rolling out the red carpet as it were.
- People singing welcoming pilgrims. In this case, very Messianic fulfillment.
- Refer to map. Much of the city would have heard and seen the commotion.
- Luke 19:41-42. What day? Daniel 9:25-26
- This is Jesus presenting Himself as the lamb of sacrifice for inspection.

▼21:12-17 Messiah in action

- 21:12-13 Explain. Making money off of God. Not cool.
- 21:14-17 Walk through. Map.
- 21:18-22 Sometimes a fig tree is just a fig tree!

▼21:23 - 22:14 An issue of authority and obedience

- 21:23-27 This question of authority is what it all really boils down to. Three parables that deal with authority, one's response to it, and the consequences.
- 21:28-32 Actions speak louder than words.
- 21:33-46 We are held accountable for what we have been given stewardship. Which isn't even really ours. It's His truth, his reality, not ours.

▼22:1-14 You are invited. RSVP.

- What is the invitation based on; is it earned? Open to all. The king sent his servants to FIND people to invite!
- Invited to servitude? No, a feast prepared by the king. How do you get in? Accept the

invitation.

- Called and chosen. Response to invitation determines "not worthy" (v. 8) or "called" (v. 14).

▼ Interesting pattern from which we can make some application. Jesus presents Himself and is rejected because He doesn't meet their standard.

▼ The world wants God. The world needs God. God put that need there. We look to ET, Mother Nature, something outside of ourselves, bigger than ourselves, including popular opinion and the masses.

- Need for what? Peace, strength, comfort, authority, help, justice, love, intimacy, all of it. Above all, the problem of sin which is the source of all other problems. When sin is dealt with the answers for everything else become apparent.
- God knew of our need so He proactively responded to it by sending Jesus. How does Jesus fix the sin problem? Sin must be atoned for with blood, hence this sacrificial system. The blood of animals just covers. The blood of Jesus washes away and buys back. Death and resurrection allows for us to have a new nature, one that is compatible with God's. 2 Cor. 5:17.
- What if the whole world accepted this message? Eph. 5:18-21. What would that look like?
- "Oh you Christians, you're so narrow minded. We can do that on our own, we don't need God." Exactly the problem! God sends us the answer to our problem and the world gives God the finger. Mother Nature creates beauty. Father God creates destruction. The wing of a butterfly is an accident, but a tsunami is on purpose? Really?
- What would your home look like in Jesus? Your block? Your street? Your school? This city? You?

▼ Wrap up

- Actions speak louder than words. How do yours compare? What do your actions say?
- How have you treated the son of the King? Either way you will get the fruit of your actions.

▼ You have been invited. How did you RSVP?

- Did you ignore it? Did you just go back to what you were doing before?
- Did you mock God's messengers?
- Are you trying to sneak in on your own?
- Or have you answered the invitation, becoming a chosen one?