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BIBLE STUDY

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

601 NW 2nd Street, Gainesville, FL 32601; 352.336.7602

Web Site: www.RefugeGainesville.com

**Elder Michael Williams, Pastor**

**Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Diocesan**

**BEHOLD, THY KING COMETH**

**Matthew 21:1-27**

***Matthew 21:1 "And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,:***

This was the beginning of the last week of the life of our Lord before the crucifixion. The triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is what we, Christians, celebrate as Palm Sunday. "Bethphage" means house of figs. The Mount of Olives is just outside the wall of the old city of Jerusalem. This time Jesus entered Jerusalem as Messiah. "Messiah" means anointed. They called him King of the Jews in Jerusalem this time. The names of the two disciples were not known.

***Matthew 21:2 "Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose [them], and bring [them] unto me."***

***Matthew 21:3 "And if any [man] say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them."***

Jesus was to fulfill the prophecy to the very last letter. Not only were they to get an ass, but the colt of an ass, as well. Many feel that the spiritual implication, here, was that the older animal represented the Jews and the younger animal represented the Gentiles. Jesus sent for both Jew and Gentile. The Jews rejected Him as a whole. This man, who had the animals, was either someone who was already a follower of Jesus, or someone God had divinely placed at this place at this specific time for this specific purpose. It had been prophesied by Zechariah in the 9th chapter that He would be riding on the colt of an ass. These two disciples were to walk up to the first ass with a colt and just unloose them and bring them to Jesus. This had to be preplanned of God. Zion is sometimes spiritually symbolic of the church. You see, Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies.

***Matthew 21:4 "All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,"***

***Matthew 21:5 "Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass."***

***Matthew 21:6 "And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them,"***

***Matthew 21:7 "And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set [him] thereon."***

The disciples never questioned they just did whatever Jesus told them to do. They knew that whatever He told them to do, it was right. They took their clothing and made them into something like a saddle blanket for Jesus to sit on, on the colt. This was humbleness to the utmost.

***Matthew 21:8 "And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed [them] in the way."***

***Matthew 21:9 "And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."***

This multitude with Jesus was not only His disciples, but many of them who had been healed by Jesus. This was a very triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Their worship of Him was so great that they removed their garments and put them on the road for the ass and colt to ride over. "Hosanna" means save now. This word has been used in services of both Christians and Jews. These people were still calling Jesus "son of David". This is a physical description, not a spiritual understanding of who He is.

***Matthew 21:10 "And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?"***

***Matthew 21:11 "And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee."***

This was quite a procession of adoration. The people in Jerusalem knew there was some reason for all of this attention being given, so they wanted to know who He was. The multitude did not really understand themselves who He was. They called Him a prophet. The only thing that they knew for sure was that He had healed the sick. They had seen it with their own eyes. That was why they were shouting Hosanna, not because they knew who He was.

***Matthew 21:12 "And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,"***

***Matthew 21:13 "And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves."***

Jesus came into the temple this time with great authority. He, by force, chased those out who were in there for self-gain. He reminded them that the house of God is a place of prayer. So many churches are not a house of prayer. The world and its ways have crept into the house of God. Compromise is everywhere. He would be displeased and do some house cleaning, as He did there in Jerusalem. We forget that God is holy and must be worshipped, not entertained.

***Matthew 21:14 "And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them." Matthew 21:15 "And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased,"***

How dare God the Word to come into the place of worship and actually heal people. How dare the people praise God and cry, because they were touched by Him. It almost sounds like some of the churches today. The reason they did not like it, was because they were jealous.

***Matthew 21:16 "And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?"***

***Matthew 21:17 "And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there."***

Jesus was speaking of babes in Christ. Those who had not studied the law. Bethany (house of unripe figs) was about two miles out of Jerusalem, and it was a convenient place to spend the night, so that He could come back to Jerusalem the next day.

***Matthew 21:18 "Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered."***

***Matthew 21:19 "And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away."***

***Matthew 21:20 "And when the disciples saw [it], they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!"***

The fig tree is symbolic of the Jews, physical Israel, if you will. This is symbolism of the rejection of Jesus by the Jews.

***Matthew 21:21 "Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this [which is done] to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done."***

***Matthew 21:22 "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."***

Jesus reminded them once more, here, that their faith gets answers to prayers. No problem (mountain) is too great for a miracle answer, if we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and believe in our hearts, it will come to pass.

***Matthew 21:23 "And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?"***

They realized that Jesus was taking great authority in the temple this time. They, also, had no idea who they were speaking to. The Sanhedrin had quickly met, and decided they must stop Him any way they could. Instead of realizing these miracles that He performed were authority enough, they were trying to trap Him into saying that God authorized Him, so that they could call this blasphemy.

***Matthew 21:24 "And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things."***

***Matthew 21:25 "The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?"***

***Matthew 21:26 "But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet."***

***Matthew 21:27 "And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things."***

They were no match for Jesus. They were trapped again. They had not ever questioned the validity of John the Baptist's ministry. John had proclaimed Jesus as Messiah (the Lamb of God).

**QUESTIONS**

1. What city was near the Mount of Olives?
2. How many disciples did Jesus send to the village?
3. When is Palm Sunday?
4. What does it celebrate?
5. What does Bethphage mean?
6. What would Jesus be called in Jerusalem?
7. What two animals would the disciples find?
8. What were they to do with them?
9. What do many believe the spiritual implication of the two animals was?
10. Who does the author think the owner of the animals was?
11. Which prophet prophesied this?
12. "Zion" spiritually means what?
13. What did the disciples put on the animal?
14. Who came into the city with Jesus?
15. What were they crying?
16. What did their calling Jesus "Son of David" signify?
17. When the people in Jerusalem asked who He was, what did they reply?
18. What did Jesus do in the temple?
19. What did Jesus say the house of God should be called?
20. Who came to Jesus He healed them?
21. When the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things He did, how did they act?
22. Why did they feel this way?
23. Where was Bethany?
24. What tree is symbolic of the Jews?
25. What causes our prayers to be answered?
26. What is the mountain symbolic of?
27. What did the chief priest and Pharisees ask Jesus in the temple?
28. Who had quickly met and decided to destroy Jesus?
29. Why were they trying to get Him to say that God authorized Him?
30. What was Jesus' reply to them?