
SERMON NOTES March 24, 2024

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

**Matthew 21:1-11
Who Is This
Pastor Mike**

- I. The essential question; _____
- a. Peter's great _____
- b. Jesus' confusing _____
- c. Jesus' initial _____
- II. Jesus' _____ of his kingship
- Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem sets up* _____
- III. The people's reception of the _____
- a. The meaning of the _____
- b. The shouts of _____
- IV. Jesus' declaration about _____
- a. His riding a _____
- b. His _____ of the _____
- V. The essential question is _____

Possible responses include...

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. Throughout most of his ministry Jesus commanded people not to tell others who he really was, intentionally suppressing the public's awareness of his identity as the "son of David" and the "Messiah." But then in Matthew 21 he intentionally sets up an extremely public entrance into Jerusalem where he parades in as a king.
 - a. Why did Jesus consistently suppress the public's awareness of his true identity, commanding those who knew not to tell people who he really was until the last week of his life?
 - b. In Matthew 20:29-34 Jesus for the first time publicly accepts the title "Son of David." Why does he suddenly publicly accept this title?
 - c. After suppressing his identity as the Messiah for his whole ministry, what changed on Palm Sunday? Why did Jesus not only allow, but even orchestrate such an extremely public celebration as king, riding into the city to the welcome and praise of the people?
2. A seemingly striking contradiction in the story of Jesus' triumphal entry is in the fact that he rode into Jerusalem on a small young donkey. Jesus is intentionally creating a picture of riding into the city as a triumphal king, but the king would ride on a powerful war-horse, and Jesus is riding a young donkey.
 - a. What is Jesus trying to teach by orchestrating his entrance into Jerusalem to resemble a king's triumphal entry into his capital city?
 - b. What is Jesus trying to teach by riding a small donkey instead of a great war-horse?
3. Matthew 21:9 tells us that the people celebrated Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem by shouting, *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"* The word 'Hosanna' means, 'God save us,' so they were calling on Jesus to be the king who would bring salvation.
 - a. Is it possible to seek Jesus and ask him to save us, only to be looking for a type of salvation that is different than the salvation Jesus came to bring?
 - b. If so, what was the salvation the people in the crowd were looking for? How do we make the same mistake today? What kind of salvation do people today often look to Jesus for?
 - c. What was the salvation that Jesus came to bring? How can our insistence of the salvation we want keep us from discovering the salvation Jesus came to bring?
4. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, a huge crowd greeted and worshiped him as the promised Messiah, and as their savior. But most praised him only because they believed he would be the kind of savior they expected and desired, and within days almost all had deserted Jesus when he failed to meet their expectations.
 - a. Do you believe that this is still common? Do people still come to church looking only to worship the Jesus they want and/or expect? Explain your answer?
 - b. If so, what kind of Jesus do people expect or desire today? How different are these expectations from what the Bible teaches about who Jesus really is?
 - c. What are common responses when people discover that Jesus isn't the kind of savior they wanted, or when he fails to live up to a person's expectations and desires?
 - d. How could the same people who cheered him as king within a week be part of the crowd that called for his crucifixion?