

Triumphant Entry (Matt 21:8-17; 26:3-5)

1. Learning about Jesus requires knowledge about the Old Testament. If you take the time to study God's word with the Holy Spirit, you'll learn about Messianic prophecies. These are statements about the Messiah made by Old Testament prophets; however, we often aren't aware of this until these statements are referred to in the New Testament. In preparation of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Matt 21:1-5; John 12:12-15), Zechariah 9:9 is mentioned. What phrases are used of the entering Jesus? What does this tell you about the people welcoming him - why is this important?

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

"Say to the daughter of Zion,
'Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" (Matt 21:1-5, ESV)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
(Zech 9:9, ESV)

2. This is not the first time Jesus cleanses the Temple. Consider this account early in His ministry – what do you observe that helps you understand Matthew 21:8-17? What Messianic prophecy do you see?

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." (John 2:13-17, ESV)

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Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Max7.org): Jesus and His message are met with mixed emotions. The crowds cheer Him with kingly welcome as He rides into Jerusalem. The children praise Him - here is God's long-awaited good and perfect King! But the Jewish leaders also plot to get rid of Him. As Jesus overturned the tables He looked forward to the new way that all people would be able to meet with God. Not via the temple and routine sacrifice, but through Jesus' willing sacrifice for us.

Have the student read the two accounts and help the student visualize what is happening:

Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,

"Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise'?"

And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there. (Matt 21:8-17, ESV)

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people." (Matt 26:3-5, ESV)

Show the video.

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Encourage the student to write down the phrases used for Jesus:

"Hosanna to the Son of David!" Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

Ask the student: who is the Son of David? As a promise to king David, God would raise an offspring to establish an everlasting kingdom (2 Sam 7:12-16; 1 Chron 17:11-14); it is a reference to the Messiah. What is the definition of hosanna? Remind the student to look up words he is unfamiliar with!

Hosanna means “oh save!” as an exclamation of adoration.

Ask the student to pretend to be a Believer, as a child of Abraham, what would it mean if he witnessed a fulfillment of a Messianic prophecy? The promise to David of a descendant of an everlasting King has come.

Messianic prophecies not only inform who Jesus Christ was; but, for the Jew, they were proof that God was real and loyally committed to His covenant promises.

When children are crying out, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”, what does Jesus ask the indignant Jewish religious authorities?

Jesus cites Psalms 8:2 as a question, “Have you never read? Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies, you have prepared praise?”

O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger. (Ps 8:1-2, ESV)

Whereas Psalms 8:1-2 is directed towards God, Jesus is acknowledging His kingly Messiahship by applying the passage to Himself, which Jewish religious authorities see as blasphemous.

2. This is not the first time Jesus cleanses the Temple. Consider this account early in His ministry – what do you observe that helps you understand Matthew 21:8-17? What Messianic prophecy do you see?

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Help the student learn that commentaries can be helpful in finding the Old Testament references that are cited in the New Testament. The Messianic prophecy that the disciples remembered was:

For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me. (Ps 69:9)

If the student reads Psalms 9:6-12, he may learn, in this Psalm by David, that David is hoping that his life will not bring shame and disgrace to Believers, and it is in this context that his passion for God is unrestrained.

Each time Jesus cleanses the Temple, Jesus demonstrated to the disciples a passion for God in a manner that they could only imagine of David. Jesus' ardent actions demonstrated to the disciples how “the Psalms must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:44).