

Jesus' Last Week as a Human

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

- Jesus knows that His time is short and His ministry is almost done. This is His last week as a man and He has a lot of teaching to cram into it.
- Coming east from Jericho, towards Bethphage (“House of Unripe Figs”), on the east side of the Mount of Olives. Read **Matthew 21:1-5**.
- Most of the crowd was thrilled. Read **Matthew 21:6-11**.
- “Hosanna” = “Save!” or “Save now!”

Second Cleansing of the Temple

When was the first cleansing? _____

-
- John recounts Jesus early prophecy in chapter 2:17-22
 - This cleansing might have been a bit more thorough and violent. Read **Matthew 21: 12-13**.
 - When the chief priest and scribes saw Jesus wonderful works and heard the children crying, “Hosana,” they were indignant! “What about this?” they asked Jesus. His response was from Psalms:
*Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger. Psalm 8:2*

The Cursed Fig Tree

- Jesus went to Bethany for the night and returned to Jerusalem the next morning. Read **Matthew 21:18-22**.
- This was not just a discussion about quantity and quality of faith; it is about Israel promising fruitfulness, but bearing none – just as the great Temple was absorbed in cultism and actually hindered worship by Jews and Gentiles.

Jesus' Authority is Challenged

Jesus Tells 3 Parables

1) Father with two sons: one refuses to work in the vineyard, but goes anyway; second says he will go, but then doesn't. Which did the will of the father?
Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you."³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.
The point? _____

2) Wicked tenants: a householder builds a beautiful vineyard and press. When he sends servants to collect rent, the tenants beat one and killed two others. Then he sent his son, and they killed him, too. What should the householder do to the tenants? What did the people say? _____
The point? _____

3) The king's marriage feast: the invited guests make excuses and don't come. Since all arrangements have been made, the king invites anyone in the streets.
The point? _____

Three Questions to Jesus

1) Pharisees (religious leaders, but not priests) with Herodians (Herod's men/representatives of Rome): Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? For Jesus' response read **Matthew 22:18-22**.

¹*Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.*

⁶*This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.* ⁷*Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.* – Romans 13:1, 6-7

“Give back” to Caesar, not “give tribute” to Caesar.

2) Sadducees (aristocrats): 7 brothers successively marry and widow one woman; whose wife will she be in the resurrection?
Jesus' response is in **Matthew 22:29-33**.

3) When Jesus silenced the Sadducees, then the Pharisees returned: What is the greatest commandment in the law?

Jesus' famous answer is in **Matthew 22:37-40**.

- The first 5 Commandments are about our relationship with God, beginning with, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me"
- The second 5 are about our relationships with other people, starting with, "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

Christ's Unanswerable Question

Jesus turned on the Pharisees (read **Matthew 22:41-45**).

The point(s)? _____

Summary:

Jesus was trying to do some last minute cram-teaching to His disciples.

He pointed out to the people/Pharisees/Sadducees:

- Fruitlessness of their ministries – the hypocrisy & failure of their leaders
- Emptiness of their rituals
- The market on the Temple grounds for sacrifices was actually a hindrance to worship
- The gift of Jesus' message of salvation was going to be passed to others because of the Jews rejection of Him

References

1. Asbury Bible Commentary (on line),
2. <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/asbury-bible-commentary/toc>
3. Augsburger, Myron S., Mastering the New Testament: Matthew, Lloyd J. Ogilvie, General Editor, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1979.
4. Harper Study Bible, Revised Standard Version, Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, MI, 1985.
5. Martin, Ernest L. Hope of Israel Ministries, P.O. Box 853, Azusa, CA 91702, U.S.A.
<https://www.hope-of-israel.org/bethpage.html>
6. RSV & NIV Bible on-line: <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
7. Rudolph, Rev. Kevin, The Bible Tour Guide, Rich Publishing Co, Houston, TX, Day 292.
8. Free on-line commentaries:
http://www.freebiblecommentary.org/old_testament_studies/old_testament_studies.htm
<http://www.gospelway.com/commentary/index.php>
<http://abiblecommentary.com/>
<http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/>
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/why-do-so-many-things-take-40-days-and-40-nights-in-the-bible.html>