

## The Messiah's Mission

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MATTHEW 21:12-27

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

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### Introduction

Jesus comes to Jerusalem for the last time in His earthly ministry, presenting Himself as the Davidic King, the Messiah. We are just a few days away from Passover, the Jewish equivalent of Independence Day (times 10!). The Romans are ready for a riot, the religious leaders fear the Roman response. But the Messiah is on a mission; there is a fortress to be stormed and an enemy to be expelled. This assault will strike at the heart of the problem... and Jesus always wins.

## 1 EXAMINE His Word

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What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Matthew 21:12-27

<sup>12</sup> Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.

<sup>13</sup> “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”

<sup>14</sup> The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.

<sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

<sup>16</sup> “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, “‘From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise’?”

<sup>17</sup> And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

<sup>18</sup> Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city, he was hungry.

<sup>19</sup> Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, “May you never bear fruit again!” Immediately the tree withered.

<sup>20</sup> When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?” they asked.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done.

<sup>22</sup> If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

<sup>24</sup> Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>25</sup> John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’

<sup>26</sup> But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

<sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

## **EXPLORE His Word**

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What does God MEAN?

- 1) Read Matthew 21. What are the major themes of this chapter?
- 2) What does Zechariah 9:9 and Isaiah 62:11 tell you about the One who would come to Jerusalem as the Messianic King?
- 3) What was the default Jewish attitude toward merchants? Read Amos 8:4-6, James 4:13, and Zechariah 14:21 (note “Canaanites” can also be rendered “merchants”).
- 4) How did God intend the Tabernacle/Temple to function for the nations? Read Isaiah 56:7 cf. I Kings 8:41-43.

- 5) Read Leviticus 21:16-24. Why does God forbid Levites with physical defects from “coming near” to God in the Tabernacle/Temple?
- 6) Why do the Religious leaders and the children see Jesus so differently?

## **③ EMBRACE His Word**

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Why does this MATTER to me?

### **Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

## **Sermon Notes**

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