

**Life Group Guide Mat 21:1–17 “Decisions Made at the Triumphal Entry”  
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Mar 24 & For Use in Life Groups through Sun Mar 31**

**Icebreaker Question**

What were the hardest set of instructions you ever had to complete? How did it go? What did you learn through the process?

**Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline**

- I. Some Decided to Obey Him (Mat 21:1–9)**
  - a. The Disciples Decided to Obey Jesus (vv. 1-6)
  - b. Two Unnamed Disciples Decided To Obey(vv. 1b-3)
  - c. The Owner of the Donkey Decided to Obey Christ (vv. 2-3)
- II. Some Decided to Praise Him but for the Wrong Reasons (vv. 8-9)**
  - a. The Multitudes Praised Jesus for What They Thought He Would do, not for Who He Was!
  - b. People Want Jesus on Their Terms, not as He Desires
- III. Some Decided To Be Skeptical Of Him (v. 10)**
  - a. Everyone Knew There was Something Different About Jesus but Many Weren’t Sure What it Was
  - b. The World is Skeptical About Jesus and Every Believer Must be Ready to Give an Answer When People Say, “Who is This?”
- IV. Some Decided To Reject Jesus (vv. 12-15)**
  - a. The Politically Correct Rejected Jesus (v. 12)
  - b. The Religious but Lost Rejected Jesus (vv. 13-15)
- V. Some made the Decision To Be Angry With Jesus (vv. 15-17)**
  - a. Some of the People did not Like What They Heard Jesus Saying or What They Saw Him Doing
  - b. Hostility Toward God Comes From Ignorance of His Word and an Unwillingness to Accept God’s Will for Your Life (v. 16)

**Mat 21:1–7**

**Read Mat 21:1–7: Observation:**

1. In 21:1, where are Jesus and his disciples?
2. In 21:2–3, whom does Jesus address? What does he instruct them?
3. In 21:4–5, why must this happen? What Old Testament texts does Matthew reference to explain why this must happen this way?
4. In 21:6–7, what did they set on the animals? Upon what does Jesus ride?

**Interpretation:**

5. What does it mean that Jesus is “Lord” in this passage? In these verses, what does Matthew shows us Jesus being lord over? How does Jesus being Lord over us affect our possessions and what we do? Why is it important for others to recognize what we do is because of Jesus?

**Application:**

6. The two disciples decided to obey Jesus, even when the instructions seemed rather difficult and strange. What part of the Bible seems difficult for Christians to obey, even though we know we must obey them? How does this text encourage you to trust Jesus even with these difficult commands from our Lord?

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**Mat 21:8–11**

**Read Mat 21:8–11: Observation**

7. In 21:8–9, what did the large crowd do for Jesus as he arrived in Jerusalem?
8. In 21:9, from what Old Testament text did the crowd cry out about Jesus?
9. In 21:10–11, what did the crowds explain to all of Jerusalem about Jesus? What did the crowds call him? Compare the crowd’s understanding to Mat 16:13–16.

**Interpretation:**

10. People have always struggled to understand who Jesus is. What is proper about the crowds’ understanding of Jesus? What is insufficient and wrong about what the crowd believes about Jesus? Why is it important to understand the Bible’s view of Jesus rather than what other sources might say? What do you think are the most important biblical truths about Jesus?

**Application:**

11. Please memorize Mat 21:9b, beginning with the phrase, “Hosanna to the Son of David ...”
  12. Why do you praise Jesus? Is it primarily for His name and our lives with Him? Is the praise based on the His promises and priorities or something else? How tempting is it for you to praise Him for what He gives us rather than who He is? What can happen if our expectations of what Jesus will do does not match what he actually does? How can we turn our motives and expectations back to the genuine praise of Jesus?
  13. The crowd explained Jesus to the city. Why is it important for us to be ready to explain who Jesus is to others, especially our families, co-workers, and neighbors? What happens if we don’t prepare to explain Jesus rightly to them? Who will teach them? What might you add to your time with Jesus so that you are better prepared to teach others about Him?
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**Mat 21:12–17**

**Read Mat 21:12–17: Observation**

14. In 21:12, where did Jesus go? What did He do?
15. In 21:13, to what Old Testament text does Jesus refer to explain His actions?
16. In 21:14, who approached Jesus in the Temple?
17. In 21:15–16, what did children call Jesus? Who was concerned about Jesus’ miracles and these words? What did they expect Jesus to do?
18. In 21:16–17, how did Jesus reply to them? To what part of the Old Testament does He refer?

**Interpretation:**

19. In these passages, why is it that the weak, hurt, and small respond better to Jesus than those who “stand tall,” especially those who are versed well in the Scriptures? Is it bad to be well-versed in the Scriptures? What do these weak persons know that chief priests and scribes seem to reject? Why did they “know” Jesus better? In what ways should Christians know Jesus?

**Application:**

20. How should we respond to people who reject Jesus or become angry about Him? Should we respond the same in such situations with those we barely know and with those we know well? What should we always be willing to say, do, and believe? What might we have to change based upon the relationship with the other person?

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