

Intro: The story of Matthew chapter 21.

What begins as a seeming story of joy & promise...

- Is met by - Indignation:
- Questions of authority:
- Refusal to respond:

And quickly turns to a story of the promise of judgement amid the tears of Jesus. (Luke 19:37-44)

1. Read Matthew 21:1-11. Why did Jesus choose to ride on a donkey if He is the Messiah, the King? (Zech 9:9)
 - What was the response of the crowd? What is the meaning of "Hosanna"? Who were they indicating Jesus was? (Deut 18:15, 18; Luke 7:16)
2. How was Jesus different from what the people were expecting?
 - What kind of Jesus are you following? One of your own devising or one who brings transformation & cleansing?
3. Read Matthew 21:12-17. Where is the first place Jesus went when He entered Jerusalem? What did He do there?
 - Do you think the church needs cleansing today?
 - What do you think Jesus would do if He would come to cleanse our church?
4. What did Jesus do after He cleansed the Temple? What was the response?
 - How did Jesus respond to the indignation of the chief priests and teachers of the law? (:16)
5. Read Matthew 21:23-27. As Jesus was teaching in the temple courts what question did the chief priests and elders of the people ask him?
 - How do you think this question, and the leaders non-response, foretell the repeated messages of judgement that follow in this chapter?
 - What should this repeated message communicate to me and you today?
6. Read Matthew 21:28-32. What do you think is the meaning of the parable of the two sons?
7. Read Matthew 21:33-46. What can we understand from this parable that would have been understood by the Jewish people and especially the religious leaders?
 - Who is the landowner? What does the vineyard represent?
 - Who were the farmers (tenants) that the landowner rented the vineyard to?
 - Who were the servants? And what did they do to them?
 - Who was the son that was finally sent?
 - Who are the other tenants that the owner will rent to?
8. What was the stone that was rejected but became a capstone (cornerstone)? (Psalm 118:22-23; Acts 4:10-11)
9. What is the main truth you hear God communicating through Matthew chapter 21 for you today? How will/should you respond?