

Sermon Notes – April 28, 2019

Review

- ⇒ Last week, we celebrated Easter which took us through the entirety of Holy Week. Now, we rewind to the beginning of Holy Week to see how the events unfold in greater detail.
- ⇒ Two weeks ago, we saw Jesus enter Jerusalem and be proclaimed as King. Psalm 118:22-27 is on the lips of the crowd as Jesus' fulfills messianic prophecy.

Today's Text: Matthew 21:12-46

The king has arrived! Now, Matthew is going to show us what the king does. Matthew's focus is on the Jesus' messianic authority. How does Jesus, as the prophesied messiah, exercise His authority?

Priestly Authority in the Temple (vv 12-17)

- ⇒ Jesus clears the temple, but the financial exploitation addressed was not the primary source of Jesus' indignation, but rather a symptom of a deeper issue. The deeper issue was that the Israelites were excluding the _____ from worship.
- ⇒ The charge? _____. The Jewish leaders had been entrusted to lead ALL people to God. They had taken the very place God had given them for this task and turned it into a _____.
- ⇒ Jesus' actions are an act of judgement and a demonstration of his _____ authority. Jesus truly is greater than the temple (see 12:6)! Those who are kept out of the temple, lest they defile it, are made clean when they come to Jesus.

God's Heart for the Nations

- ⇒ To understand Jesus' indignation and the severity of the Jewish leaders' sin, we need to understand God's heart for the nations.
- ⇒ God's heart for the nations is a _____ theme throughout scripture (Gen. 12:1-3; 18:18; 22:17-18; 26:4; 28:13-14; Ex. 9:16; 12:38; 19:5-6; Deut. 10:19; Psalm 67; 86:8-10; Isa. 2:2; 11:10; 49:6; Amos 9:11-12; Micah 4:1-2; Zech 2:11; 8:20-23; Mal. 1:11).

A Call to the Nations: Come!
Matthew 21:12-48
Pastor Tyler Pease

- ⇒ God's desire to be worshiped is not only compatible with our _____ but is also a source of great value—there are no _____ people groups.

Prophetic Authority to Condemn (vv 18-32)

- ⇒ God expects fruitfulness. Jesus' curse of the fig tree is not a _____ but a _____ act of judgement. Just as God expects His creation to fulfill its purpose, He expects the leaders to fulfill their purpose.
- ⇒ 21:21-22 ties back to the expectation that God's people will produce that which they were created for. Faith is not a tool to wield for our purposes, it is trusting that God will give you the ability to accomplish what He wants.
- ⇒ As Jesus' authority is questioned, He asks the leaders a question about John the Baptist. Their inability to answer is not from ignorance but from willfully _____.
- ⇒ Jesus tells a parable of two sons to point out that what we do is evidence of our obedience. Regardless of their external appearance, the Jewish leaders have failed to produce the fruit of true obedience.

The Consequence of Fruitless Insurrection (vv 33-46)

- ⇒ Jesus' condemnation of the fruitless fig tree now comes full circle. What will happen to the fruitless men? Their authority will be given to someone else.
- ⇒ A second parable shows the extent of their insurrection. They are literally _____ from God and will try to keep their authority by any means.
- ⇒ The religious leaders have failed to see Jesus' messianic authority. They fail to see that Jesus is the all-sufficient messiah—_____, _____, and _____!

Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ Our responsibility is to respond to Jesus as the all-sufficient messiah. As we think of Jesus as prophet, priest, and king, is there any area where you are ignoring His authority?
- ⇒ What fruitfulness is Jesus after? Today's passage highlights the importance of the Nations to God. Did you know you had a role in the great mission to see worship of God among every, tribe, people, and language?
- ⇒ In your life, do you live with intentionality that God is glorified? Do you give God adoration, praise, and glory and do you help people do that or do you hinder others?

Community Group Notes

Getting Started

Did you grow up with the practice of spring cleaning? What are the annual spring cleaning essentials for you?

Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: Read the entire text (Matthew 21:12-46) and review the main sermon points from your notes. What was it about?
2. As Jesus cleaned out the temple, what was the reason? In which part of the temple did this happen? Think of the people present: what were their reactions to Jesus and why?
3. Why did Jesus use the term for insurrectionist? Why was the issue bigger than mere financial exploitation? What was the leaders' rebellion about?
4. Take some time to look up the verses at the bottom of the first page related to God's heart for the nations. What did you notice?
5. Discuss why God desiring worship from all nations is not the act of a petty being who needs to be liked. Why is God right to desire worship? How is His desire to be worshiped good news for us?

Taking It Further & Taking It Home

"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory, and Other Addresses

6. Read the quote above. How do you reconcile God being our greatest satisfaction with the reality that being a Christian often comes with suffering? To what degree does our eternal hope tie into all this? Is satisfaction something that only awaits us in the future or is it something we can also enjoy today?
7. If it is true that we all have a role in God's mission to make disciples of all nations, what does this look like for a person who isn't going to go live among an unreached tribe? What are the practices every Christian can participate in? What do you think fruitfulness in this area looks like for a Christian?

Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs.

Next Sunday Worship & Communion: May 5, 2019

"One Great Banquet, Many Lousy Excuses"

(Matthew 22:1-46)

Pastor Jay Mosser

Answer Key: ▪ nations ▪ insurrection ▪ stronghold of rebellion ▪ priestly ▪ consistent ▪ compatible ▪ unimportant ▪ fit of rage ▪ symbolic ▪ denying the truth ▪ stealing ▪ prophet ▪ priest ▪ king ▪