

DAY THIRTY 30

Many things that Jesus said and did directly fulfilled words and prophecies of the Jewish prophets.

Donkeys and colts were ridden by royalty, and by riding into Jerusalem in this manner, Jesus is revealing more about His kingship.

The “buyers and sellers” were profiting from the religious worship of the Jewish people who would travel far and then be stuck with the “surcharges” levied by these corrupt leaders. This is why Jesus dealt with them so strongly.



This is called the “second cleansing” of the Temple, because this happened at the beginning of Christ’s ministry and again here at the end.

The “Son of David” would come and sit on the throne of David. Many in Jerusalem saw Jesus as the promised King of Israel.

PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

Matthew 21:1-32

Jesus and His disciples approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His followers, saying to them, “Go into the village before you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with her; untie them, and bring them to Me. And if anyone says something to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.”

Now this took place that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the offspring of a beast of burden.’”

And the disciples went and did just as Jesus had directed them, and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their garments on them and sat on them. Most of the multitude spread their garments in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees, and spreading them in the road. And the people were going before Him, and those who followed were crying out, “Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!” And when He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, “Who is this?” And the multitudes were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee.”

And Jesus entered the temple and cast out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. And He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer;’ but you are making it a robbers’ den.”

And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, and the children who were crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became indignant, and said to Him, “Do You hear what these people are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies You have prepared praise for Yourself?’” And He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and lodged there.

Now in the morning, when He returned to the city, He became hungry. And seeing a single fig tree by the road, He came to it, and found nothing on it except leaves only; and He said to it, “Never again shall there be any fruit from you.” At once the fig tree withered. Seeing this, the disciples were amazed, saying, “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?” And Jesus answered and said to them, “Truly I say to you, if you have faith, and do not doubt, you shall not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if

you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it shall happen. All things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive."

And when He had come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?" And Jesus answered and said to them, "I will ask you one thing too, which if you tell Me, I will also tell you by what authority I do these things."

"Where did the baptism of John originate, from heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the people; for they all hold John to be a prophet." And answering Jesus, they said, "We do not know." He also said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in the vineyard.' And he answered and said, 'I will, sir'; and he did not go. And he came to the second and said the same thing. But he answered and said, 'I will not'; yet afterward he regretted it and went. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The second." Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax-gatherers and harlots will get into the kingdom of God before you. For John the Baptist came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him; but the tax-gatherers and harlots did believe him; and you, seeing this, did not even feel remorse after John's death and believe him."

THE LANDOWNER

Matthew 21:33-22:22

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard and put a wall around it and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and rented it out to vine-growers, and went on a journey. And when the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. And the vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and seize his inheritance.' And they took him, and threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?"

They said to Him, "He will bring those wretches to a bitter end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers, who will pay him the proceeds according to their agreement." Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'The stone which

*A cornerstone
formed the leveling point
and foundation stone
for entire structures.
Christ is the Cornerstone
of the Living Building of God,
and those who believe in
Christ are Living Stones!
Read more about this
in Psalm 118.*

the builders rejected, this became the chief corner stone; this came about from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes'? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing Kingdom fruit. And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whoever it falls, it will scatter him like dust."

And when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them. And when they sought to seize Him, they feared the multitudes, because they held Him to be a prophet.

THE WEDDING PARTY

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding celebration for his son. And he sent out his servants to call those who had been invited to the wedding party, and they were unwilling to come. Again he sent out other servants saying, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my choice livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding celebration." '

"But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants and mistreated them and killed them. But the king was enraged and sent his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and set their city on fire. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Go to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding party.' And they went out into the streets, and gathered together whomever they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.

"But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man not dressed in wedding attire, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to his servants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen." Then the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Him in what He said.

And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any. Tell us what You think. Is it lawful to give tax payments to Caesar, or not?"

But Jesus perceived their malice and said, "Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the coin used for the tax." And they brought Him a Roman coin called a denarius. And He said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." Then He said to them, "Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's." And hearing this, they were amazed, and leaving Him, they went away.

Jesus' politics were quite simple: be at peace in earthly things - they will be subjected to the Kingdom that is to come!