

The King Who Judges to Save

Matthew 21:1–22

I. Introduction

- A. Read the passage, pray
- B. A Summary of Matthew Thus Far

II. The King Comes—But Not as Expected (**Matthew 21:1–11**)

- A. Jesus sends two disciples to retrieve the donkey and colt, fulfilling **Zechariah 9:9**.
- B. The fulfillment formula precedes the action, indicating Jesus Himself is the prophetic herald ("Say to the daughter of Zion").
- C. The crowds respond enthusiastically, but their understanding is incomplete—they call Him a prophet, not the true King.
- D. Main Point: **We often celebrate a version of Jesus that fits our desires, but fail to submit to the King who actually comes.**

III. The Temple Is Exposed—And So Are Our Hearts (Matthew 21:12–17), is a movement toward faithWorship

- A. Jesus disrupts the moneychangers and sellers, citing

Isaiah 56 and Jeremiah 7.

1. **Isaiah 56:3-7**

2. **Jeremiah 7:3-4, 11-12**

B. His actions are not merely a call for reform but a prophetic sign of judgment.

C. The healing of the blind and lame, and the praise of children, show who truly belongs in God's house.

D. Main Point: Jesus does not simply clean up our false religion; He replaces it with Himself. He is the Temple. We must come to God through Him alone.

IV. Fig Tree Withers—A Sign of Judgment and a Promise of Access (**Matt 21:18–22**)

A. Jesus curses the fig tree, and it withers immediately.

B. This prophetic act dramatizes the fate of fruitless Israel, especially the corrupt religious establishment.

C. Yet Jesus also promises that those with faith in Him will move mountains and receive what they ask—not through the Temple, but through direct access to God.

**D. Main Point: When Jesus judges false religion, He invites us to trust Him for true access to the Father. He does not just curse the old; He opens the way to the new. “Satan gives Adam an apple, and takes away Paradise. Therefore in all temptations let us consider not what he offers, but what we shall lose.”
— Richard Sibbes**

V. Conclusion. Jesus does not come to meet our expectations but to expose our hearts, judge fruitless religion, and offer Himself as the only way to God. The Kingdom comes through judgment—and it comes through Jesus. Will you come to Him in faith, or cling to appearances that wither and die?