

Matthew: What These Are Saying

Discussion Guide for July 25 and 26, 2026

Summary

Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling prophecy as crowds cry "Hosanna". Then He cleanses the temple and heals the blind and lame. Some see Jesus Messiah. Others (including the religious leaders) do not, despite the evidence in front of them. Spiritual sight, not physical sight, determines who truly sees Jesus. The question for us: do we see Him for who He really is?

Ice Breaker

Think of a time you failed to recognize someone or something for what it truly was, because of appearances, assumptions, or where it came from. What changed your mind? What almost kept you from seeing clearly?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 21:1-11
2. Matthew 21:12-17
3. Zechariah 9:9
4. Psalm 8:2

Discussion Questions

1. The prophecies about the Messiah — down to the specific animal He would ride into Jerusalem — were written centuries in advance and fulfilled in exact detail. How does the fulfillment of prophecy strengthen (or challenge) your confidence in who Jesus is?
2. The crowd declared Jesus as Messiah both through their actions (laying down cloaks and branches) and their words ("Hosanna," "Son of David"). Where in your life do your actions and words align, or fail to align, with what you say you believe about Jesus?
3. Some in the crowd couldn't accept Jesus as Messiah simply because He came from Nazareth, a place they looked down on. What personal experiences, hurts, or biases make it harder for you to see Jesus clearly?
4. The religious leaders saw Jesus heal the blind and lame right in front of them and still refused to believe. What does this teach us about the difference between witnessing evidence and actually having spiritual sight?
5. Jesus said the temple was meant to be "a house of prayer," but it had become something else entirely. What has crowded prayer out of your own life, and what would it look like to reclaim that space this week?

Life Application

This week, make a list of the things in your past or present (a hurt, a broken relationship, an upbringing, a cultural assumption, et al) that color the way you see Jesus. Sit with that list in prayer, item by item, and ask God to bring healing, to open your eyes, and to give you peace. Alongside that, take an honest look at your prayer life: are you communing with God daily, or has it become an afterthought? Set aside specific, unhurried time this week just to pray — for your family, your church, the people who don't yet know Jesus, and for your own eyes to be opened.

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus' fulfillment of hundreds of Old Testament prophecies is powerful evidence that He is the Messiah.
2. Truly seeing Jesus shows up in both what we do and what we say; genuine faith isn't just declared, it's demonstrated.
3. Our personal experiences, wounds, and biases can blind us to who Jesus is.
4. It's possible to witness undeniable evidence of who Jesus is and still refuse to believe; spiritual sight is a matter of the heart, not just the eyes.
5. God's people are meant to be marked by prayer.