

## Session 05

# *The Triumphant* **KING**

**CENTRAL TRUTH** | Jesus, the promised King, is worthy of our praise.

Have you ever been to a pep rally or watched a football team break through a banner as they ran onto the field on a Friday night? There are posters celebrating certain players or the team's record, the cheerleaders do entire routines meant to encourage the team and get the crowd into the game, and the crowd cheers on the team—hopefully to victory. Even if you aren't a sports fan, you can feel the excitement of those around you and maybe get caught up in it too. In this week's passage, we'll see Jesus enter Jerusalem to the sound of people's praise. After His royal welcome, Jesus cleansed the temple and healed people who needed healing. This story reminds us that Jesus, the promised King, is worthy of our praise.

**REFLECT**

What questions do I have about God?

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What questions do I have about myself?

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What questions do I have about the world and those around me?

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**MATTHEW 21:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus then sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> telling them, “Go into the village ahead of you. At once you will find a donkey tied there with her colt. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them at once.” <sup>4</sup> This took place so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: <sup>5</sup> Tell Daughter Zion, “See, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” <sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did just as Jesus directed them. <sup>7</sup> They brought

the donkey and the colt; then they laid their clothes on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their clothes on the road; others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them on the road. <sup>9</sup> Then the crowds who went ahead of him and those who followed shouted: ‘Hosanna’ to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ‘Hosanna’ in the highest heaven! <sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in an uproar, saying, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

**MATTHEW 21:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> Jesus went into the temple and threw out all those buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the chairs

of those selling doves. <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “It is written, my house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of thieves!”

**MATTHEW 21:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. <sup>15</sup> When the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonders that he did and the children shouting in the temple, “‘Hosanna’ to the Son of David!” they were indignant <sup>16</sup> and said to him, “Do you hear what

these children are saying?” Jesus replied, “Yes, have you never read: You have prepared praise from the mouths of infants and nursing babies?” <sup>17</sup> Then he left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

## Day 01

# ZECHARIAH 9:9



Refer to page 5 for a description of the 7 Arrows of Bible Reading.

### 📍 READ & RESPOND

A king or queen often shows up at important events in a fancy car, dressed in impressive clothes, with lots of security and fanfare. But today's passage from the book of Zechariah describes a different kind of king. Zechariah tells the Jewish people to celebrate because their king is coming—but he won't be the kind of king they were expecting. He won't be riding a powerful warhorse; instead, he'll be riding on a donkey, a symbol of both peace and royalty. This prophecy, written hundreds of years before Jesus was born, shows that our true King isn't interested in gaining power the way the world does. He comes to us with salvation, in gentleness and humility.

← For the Israelites, long ruled by foreign empires, what would it mean to hear that their king was coming humbly instead of with military might?

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↑ What does this passage reveal about God's character and the kind of salvation He offers?

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↓ What does the human expectation of a conquering king tell us about what we often look for in a leader?

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### 📍 MEMORIZE

Write **Matthew 21:9** in a creative font and illustrate it with markers, paint, or other art supplies. Seeing the verse in a colorful and artistic way helps it stick in our minds. Hang it where you can see it every day.

### 📍 PRAY


*King Jesus, thank You for being a gentle and humble King. Help me to live a life that reflects Your character.*

## Day 02

# MATTHEW 21:1-10


### READ & RESPOND

Red carpets are glamorous events where celebrities make a grand entrance, posing for photographers and waving to cheering crowds. In today's passage, Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem was similar but with a twist. The crowds cheered and waved palm branches, even laying their cloaks on the road, treating Him like a conquering hero. But Jesus wasn't riding a powerful horse; He was riding a humble donkey, just as the prophet Zechariah had promised. This moment, now known as Palm Sunday, shows that the crowds saw Jesus as a powerful future king, but their idea of a king was someone who would save them from Roman rule, not from their sins.

 What does Jesus' choice to enter Jerusalem on a donkey tell us about God's plan and His idea of true power and kingship?


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 Why do you think the crowds were looking for a political savior?

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 How can this passage help you see Jesus for who He really is? Spend some time in prayer asking Jesus to reveal Himself to you.

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### MEMORIZE

Write each word of **Matthew 21:9** on separate pieces of paper. Mix up the words and put them back in the correct order. This activity helps you think about the correct structure of the verse.

### PRAY

*King Jesus, thank You for being much greater than the kind of king that people expected. Help me to see Your greatness as I go through my life and help me to honor You by being humble as You were.*

Day **03****JEREMIAH 7:3-11****READ & RESPOND**

Sometimes, we know exactly what to say or do to manipulate a situation or person. We might wear a mask as the perfect student or ideal friend but lack a genuine heart in the situation. Even if no one else sees through that mask, God sees straight to our hearts and knows the truth about us. The people in today's passage were doing the same thing. They would go to the temple and pretend to be devoted to God, but then they would go out and do wrong, like stealing and lying. Jeremiah told them to stop trusting in their religious traditions and to truly change their hearts and actions. This passage is a powerful reminder that God wants more than just our "religious" acts—He wants our hearts to truly change.

↻ What were the evil things that the people of Judah were doing? What did they say to justify their actions?

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↑ What does this passage show that God truly desires from His people?

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→ In what part of your life are you simply going through the motions with God? How can you actively pursue real change?

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**MEMORIZE**

Write **Matthew 21:9** on a small card. Walk around and say the verse out loud. The physical movement helps your brain process and remember the words. You can say it faster or slower as you walk.

**PRAY**

*Lord, thank You for loving me and for desiring my whole heart. Help me to be honest about my sins.*

## Day 04

# MATHEW 21:12-13

### 📍 READ & RESPOND

The temple was meant to be a place of worship, but it had turned into a chaotic marketplace. People were buying and selling animals and exchanging money right in the Court of the Gentiles, a space set aside for non-Jewish worshipers. Imagine someone trying to worship while all this was going on—the noise, the crowds, the business. It was impossible. Jesus was furious, driving the money changers out. He wasn't mad at the business itself; He was angry that people were using a place of worship for selfish gain. Jesus cares deeply about a pure heart and genuine worship. He wants His house to be a place of honest conversation and sincere prayer, not a "den of thieves."

↑ What does this passage reveal about God's passion for genuine worship?

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← Why would Jesus' actions in the temple have been so shocking to the religious leaders and the people in Jerusalem at that time?

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↓ What does this passage tell us about our tendency to mix selfish gain with worship?

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### 📍 MEMORIZE

Write **Matthew 21:9** on a sticky note and put it on your bathroom mirror. Every time you get ready in the morning or evening, say the verse out loud while looking at your reflection. The visual and verbal repetition will help you lock the words into your memory.

### 📍 PRAY

*Father, help me to worship You with a pure heart and with pure intentions. Forgive me for when I have treated church and worship dishonestly.*

Day 05

# MATTHEW 21:14-17

## READ & RESPOND

After a dramatic scene of clearing the temple, we see a softer side of Jesus. With compassion and kindness, He healed the blind and the disabled who came to Him at the temple. When children began singing praises, the religious leaders were outraged. They confronted Jesus, who responded by quoting Psalm 8:2, a verse the leaders surely knew. The very Savior they had devoted their lives to studying was right in front of them, yet they refused to believe because He didn't fit their expectations. We, too, often place selfish expectations on God, failing to see Him as He truly is. May we know God so thoroughly that we don't miss what's right before our eyes.

← What did it mean to the people of that time that Jesus healed those who were blind and disabled in the temple—a place where they were normally excluded?

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→ How can you show compassion to someone who feels like an outsider or is hurting?

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↔ How should this passage inspire you to see and learn from the simple faith of those around you?

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## MEMORIZE

Make up a simple tune or rap to go with **Matthew 21:9**. The rhythm and melody will help you remember the words. You can sing it to yourself or record it to listen to later.

## PRAY

*Jesus, thank You for Your compassion and healing. May I seek to praise You when I see Your work. Remove any indignation from my heart, and show me how to offer kindness in Your name.*