

Matthew 21

Chapter 21 of 28 · 46 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Triumphal Entry

1 And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,

2 Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.

3 And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.

4 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,

5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

6 And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them,

7 And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.

8 And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.

9 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

10 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?

11 And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,

13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.

15 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased,

16 And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

17 And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.

The Fig Tree Withers

18 Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.

19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

20 And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!

21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

23 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

24 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

25 The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

26 But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

27 And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

28 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.

31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

33 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Believe — πιστεύω (Pisteuo)

To believe, trust, have faith

The Greek **pisteuo** (πιστεύω) means to believe or trust—active reliance upon Christ. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish' (John 3:16).

Faith — πίστις (Pistis)

Faith, belief, trust

The Greek **pistis** (πίστις) denotes faith, belief, or trust—confidence in God's character and promises. It's both intellectual assent and relational trust, central to justification (Romans 5:1).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Heaven — οὐρανός (Ouranos)

Heaven, sky

The Greek **ouranos** (οὐρανός) denotes heaven—God's throne and the believer's eternal home. Jesus taught His disciples to pray 'Our Father which art in heaven' (Matthew 6:9) and promised to prepare a place there (John 14:2).

Kingdom — βασιλεία (Basileia)

Kingdom, reign

The Greek **basileia** (βασιλεία) means kingdom—both the realm ruled and the exercise of royal authority. The 'kingdom of God' is central to Jesus' teaching, representing God's saving rule breaking into history.

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Prophet — προφήτης (Prophētēs)

Prophet

The Greek **prophētēs** (προφήτης) denotes a prophet—one who speaks forth God's message. Jesus was recognized as 'a prophet mighty in deed and word' (Luke 24:19), fulfilling and surpassing the prophetic office.

Righteous — δίκαιος (Dikaios)

Righteous, just

The Greek **dikaios** (δίκαιος) means righteous or just—conforming to God's standard. Christ's righteousness is imputed to believers through faith (Romans 4:5), making them legally righteous before God.

CROSS REFERENCES

Matthew 21:1

References Jerusalem: Zechariah 14:4; Acts 1:12. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 24:3; 26:30; Mark 14:26; Luke 21:37; 22:39. **References Jesus:** John 8:1

Matthew 21:3

Parallel theme: John 3:35; 17:2; Acts 17:25. **References Lord:** Ezra 1:5; 7:27; Psalms 24:1; 2 Corinthians 8:9

Matthew 21:4 **Parallel theme:** Zechariah 9:9; John 12:15. **Prophecy:** Matthew 1:22

Matthew 21:5 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 2:6; 11:29; Genesis 49:10; Isaiah 12:6; 40:9; 62:11; Ezekiel 34:24; Hosea 1:7. **Kingdom:** Matthew 2:2; Ezekiel 37:24

Matthew 21:7 **Parallel theme:** 2 Kings 9:13

Matthew 21:8 **Parallel theme:** 2 Kings 9:13; John 12:13

Matthew 21:9 **Parallel theme:** Luke 2:14. **Blessing:** Matthew 23:39. **References David:** Matthew 9:27; 21:15

Matthew 21:10

Parallel theme: Ruth 1:19; 1 Samuel 16:4; Isaiah 63:1; Luke 5:21; 7:49; 9:9; Acts 9:5. **Related:** Song of Solomon 3:6

Matthew 21:11

Prophecy: Matthew 2:23; Mark 6:15; Luke 7:16; 24:19; John 1:21; 4:19; 6:14; 7:40; 9:17; Acts 7:37

Matthew 21:12 **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 1:14; 5:7; 12:8; 14:22; 14:30; Luke 2:24. **Temple:** Exodus 30:13; Leviticus 12:6; Mark 11:11

Matthew 21:13 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 93:5; Jeremiah 7:11. **Prayer:** Isaiah 56:7; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46

Matthew 21:15 **References David:** Matthew 21:9

Matthew 21:16 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 12:3; 19:4; Psalms 8:2; Mark 2:25. **References Jesus:** Matthew 11:25

Matthew 21:17 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 16:4; Mark 11:11; 11:19; Luke 24:50; John 11:1; 11:18

Matthew 21:18 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 4:2; Hebrews 4:15

Matthew 21:19

Parallel theme: Mark 11:14; Luke 3:9; John 15:2; 15:6; 2 Timothy 3:5; Titus 1:16; Jude 1:12; Revelation 22:11

Matthew 21:21 **Faith:** Matthew 17:20; 1 Corinthians 13:2; James 1:6

Matthew 21:22 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 7:7; 7:11; 18:19; John 14:13; 15:7; 16:24; 1 John 3:22. **Faith:** Mark 11:24. **Prayer:** James 5:16

Matthew 21:23 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 2:14; Acts 4:7. **Temple:** Matthew 26:55

Matthew 21:24 **References Jesus:** Luke 6:9

Matthew 21:25

Parallel theme: 1 John 3:20. **Faith:** Luke 20:5; John 3:18. **References John:** John 1:6; 1:15

Matthew 21:26

References John: Mark 6:20. **Prophecy:** Matthew 11:9; 14:5; 21:46. **Parallel theme:** John 5:35

Matthew 21:28

Parallel theme: Matthew 20:1; 21:33; Mark 13:34; Luke 13:4; 1 Corinthians 10:15; 15:58

Matthew 21:30 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 23:3; Ezekiel 33:31; Titus 1:16

Matthew 21:31

References God: Luke 7:29; Romans 3:19. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 20:16; Romans 5:20; 2 Peter 3:9. **Kingdom:** Matthew 7:21

Matthew 21:32 **Faith:** Matthew 21:25. **Righteousness:** 2 Peter 2:21

Matthew 21:33 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 2:21; Hosea 4:1; John 15:1

Matthew 21:35 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 5:12; Nehemiah 9:26; Acts 7:52

Matthew 21:36 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 22:4

Matthew 21:37 **Parallel theme:** Zephaniah 3:7

Matthew 21:38 **Parallel theme:** Luke 20:14; Hebrews 1:2

Matthew 21:39 **Parallel theme:** Acts 2:23

Matthew 21:40 **Parallel theme:** Hebrews 10:29. **References Lord:** Mark 12:9

Matthew 21:41 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 21:43; Acts 18:6; 28:28

Matthew 21:42 **References Lord:** Isaiah 28:16. **Parallel theme:** Habakkuk 1:5; Acts 4:11; Romans 9:33. **References Jesus:** Ephesians 2:20

Matthew 21:43 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 21:41; 1 Peter 2:9. **Kingdom:** John 3:3

Matthew 21:44 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 26:24; 27:25; Psalms 2:9; Zechariah 12:3; Luke 20:18; Romans 9:33; 1 Thessalonians 2:16; 1 Peter 2:8

Matthew 21:45 **Parallel theme:** Luke 11:45; 20:19

Matthew 21:46 **Prophecy:** Matthew 21:11; 21:26