

# ST. MATTHEW

The Gospel according to

10

## INTRODUCTION

Things were coming together quickly. The Jewish nation was converging on Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. Messianic fever was in the air. The Romans were on high alert, watching for any sign of trouble from the huge crowds. There was a compelling sense that something was about to happen.

Into this energized environment rode Jesus. On Palm Sunday, to the shouts and accolades of the cheering throngs, he rode on a borrowed donkey through the gates of Jerusalem. Thus began the final week of his ministry.

## HOSANNA!

### Read Matthew 21:1-11

Do you remember Matthew's purpose in writing this Gospel? How does verse 5 reinforce Matthew's purpose?

What does the word "Hosanna!" mean? Why was this a fitting shout to greet Jesus?

What does Jesus' demeanor entering Jerusalem tell us about his person and his office? (See **Philippians 2:5-8**.)

### Read Matthew 21:12-17

Think about the environment Jesus encountered . . .

Why were there people buying and selling animals in the temple?

Why were there money-changers doing business in the temple?

Are there lessons we should learn and apply today from Jesus' words in v. 13?

### Read Matthew 21:18-22

What is the lesson that we should appropriate from the withered fig tree?

### Read Matthew 21:23-27

Why is it important to establish the authority of someone who claims to be a prophet or healer?

How did Jesus put the chief priests and elders on the spot when they asked him to validate his authority?

### Read Matthew 22:15-22

What was the double-edged question that the Pharisees posed to Jesus? Why was this a no-win trap?

What debt do we have, both to God and to the state?

## THE LAST PARABLES

### Read Matthew 21:28-46

In the parable of the two sons, which son represents the Pharisees? How does the other son represent the tax collectors?

Describe the meaning of the parable of the tenants and the vineyard . . .

What is the vineyard? (For a similar picture refer to Isaiah 5.)

Who are the tenants?

Who is the son and heir?

Explain the meaning of Jesus' words, "He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

### Read Matthew 22:1-14

Explain the parable of the wedding banquet . . .

Who are those who refused to come?

Who are those who were invited from the street corners?

What were the wedding clothes necessary to get in?

What is Jesus teaching when he says, "Many are invited, but few are chosen"?

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## VERSE TO REMEMBER

Matthew 21:42

*The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.*

For next time read Matthew chapters 22-26