

Series: God's Life-Changing Truth – Part 12

Selections from Mark 11:1 – 13:37 ESV

How Did Jesus Meet the Challenges of His Critics?

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 8:00 & 10:45

Holy Week: Thursday at 11 & 7; Friday at 11 & 7

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: It's the first day of Holy Week! Everyone should be asking: *Who is this Jesus?* Today, we will skim over selected events of *Palm Sunday* through *Holy Tuesday*. As I read some parts, ask yourself: How did Jesus meet the challenges of His critics?

Palm Sunday: The Triumphal Entry: 11:1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage [*.6 miles to the east*] and Bethany [*2 miles to the east*], at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples² and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it.³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'"⁴ And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it.⁵ And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?"⁶ And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go.⁷ And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it.⁸ And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields.⁹ And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "**Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**"¹⁰ **Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!**"¹¹ And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.... **Hymn: LSB 443, sts. 1, 3**

Holy Monday: Jesus Cleanses the Temple:¹⁵ And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.¹⁶ And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple.

¹⁷ And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."¹⁸ And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching.¹⁹ And when evening came they went out of the city.... **Hymn: TLH 278, sts. 2, 3, 5**

Holy Tuesday:

- ⇒ **The Authority of Jesus Challenged:**²⁷ And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him,²⁸ and they said to him, "By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?"²⁹ Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things.³⁰ Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me."³¹ And they discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?'"³² But shall we say, 'From man?'"--they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet.³³ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things." ...
- ⇒ **Paying Taxes to Caesar: 12:13** And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk.¹⁴ And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?"¹⁵ But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it."¹⁶ And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's."¹⁷ Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at him. **Hymn: LSB 536, sts. 1, 3**
- ⇒ **The Sadducees Ask About the Resurrection:**¹⁸ And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying,¹⁹ "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a

man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.²⁰ There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring.²¹ And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise.²² And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died.²³ In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife."

²⁴ Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?"

²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.²⁶ And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?²⁷ He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong."

⇒ **The Greatest Commandment:**²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."³² And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him."³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions....

Hymn: LSB 452, sts. 1, 2, 5

⇒ **Beware of the Scribes:**³⁸ And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces³⁹ and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts,⁴⁰ who devour widows' houses

and for a pretense [*con, deception*] make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." ...

⇒ **Signs of the Close of the Age: 13:5** And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray.⁶ Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray.⁷ And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet.⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.⁹ "But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them.¹⁰ And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.¹¹ And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.¹² And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death.¹³ And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved." ...

⇒ **No One Knows That Day or Hour:**³² "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.³³ Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.³⁵ Therefore stay awake--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning--³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

Conclusion: Since all people need God's gift of forgiveness, God provided it through Jesus *sinless living* and *sacrificial dying*. This week, let us *humbly* and *thankfully* relive Jesus' work to pay our penalty and open heaven to all believers! **Amen!** **Hymn: TLH 610**

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