

## Selections from Matthew 21 – 25 NIV

# Palm Sunday *through* Holy Tuesday!

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 8:00 & 10:45

Please Join Us:

The "JESUS" Movie – Part 1: 4/13 at 9:30; Part 2: 4/20 at 9:30  
Holy Thursday 11 & 7; Good Friday 11 & 7; Easter 7 & 10:45

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Today is Palm Sunday, *which is the beginning of Holy Week!* Today we will consider some of what happened on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday; then, on Holy Thursday, some of what happened from late Tuesday through Thursday; then, on Good Friday, we will focus on that *most important day when Jesus finished His work to remove our sins!*

To gain even greater benefit from God's Holy Word please take your own Bible or a pew Bible, then turn to Matthew chapter 21 (page 1531 in a pew Bible).

1. **Palm Sunday:** The Triumphal Entry (read 21:1-11): The crowds called Jesus "the Son of David," *thus the Promised Savior*, yet most were looking for a *new king to overthrow the Romans* rather than a *Savior from sin!* Do YOU realize that Jesus is the One you need the most?

**Choir:** "Sing, Praise, Sing, Joy" by Allan Robert Petker

2. **Holy Monday:**
  - a. Jesus at the Temple (21:12-17): Jesus disrupted the buying and selling so that everyone – *Jews and Gentiles* – would have a place to pray and worship! Even today God invites everyone to faithfully come and receive His eternal blessings!
  - b. The Fig Tree Withers (21:18-22): From the Gospel of Mark, we know that Jesus *cursed the tree on Monday*; then it was *found withered on Tuesday*.  
Two lessons: (1) Don't give the impression of having

fruit – *as the fig tree did* – when you have none!  
(2) The prayers of *the righteous* are powerful!

3. **Holy Tuesday:** *What an amazing day!* In the gospel of Matthew, 21:23 – 26:16 *all occurred on Holy Tuesday!*
    - a. The Authority of Jesus (21:23-27): When questioned Jesus responded to their question *with a question!*
    - b. The Parable of the Two Sons (read 21:28-32): Repentance is shown *with actions*, not with words! True repentance is worked *by God in the heart*; then it shows on the *outside* with a *God-honoring life!*
- Hymn:** "Delay Not, Delay Not" TLH 278, vv. 1, 3, 5
- c. The Parable of the Tenants (21:33-46): Jesus wanted the people to see the wickedness of the religious leaders: They had *prominence and power*, **but they were twisting the truth and rejecting the Savior!** Today is similar, so *be like the Bereans (Acts 17:11)* by comparing ♦*all that is SAID to be truth* with ♦*GOD'S Word of Truth!*
  - d. The Parable of the Wedding Banquet (Read 22:1-14): Jesus taught that *everyone is being welcomed into heaven*, **but everyone who enters MUST** be wearing *the righteousness of Jesus Christ!*

**Hymn:** "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness" LSB 563, vv. 1-2

- e. Paying Taxes to Caesar (22:15-22): Christians honor God and *God's servant, the government*, by giving to *Caesar what is Caesar's* and to *God what is God's!*
- f. Marriage at the Resurrection (22:23-33): When "the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection," tried to discredit Jesus, He not only explained important realities about eternity **but** He also helped us understand that *people who have died in Jesus are*, in fact, *alive* and God remains *their God!*

- g. The Greatest Commandment (22:34-40): Jesus taught that love is important; first: love for God – *by obeying His Word*; second: love for neighbor – *by helping them according to their needs!*
- h. Whose Son Is the Christ? (Read 22:41-46): Jesus can only be *David's son* **AND** *David's Lord* if He is *the Son of God in flesh* **AND** *the Son of God from eternity!*  
**Let us ever-embrace this truth:** “I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.” (Apostles’ Creed, Second Article, Explanation)

**Hymn:** “Crown Him with Many Crowns” **LSB 525, vv. 1-2**

- i. Seven Woes (23:1-39): First Jesus addressed the crowds and His disciples, telling them to do what the religious leaders teach – *WHEN their teaching comes from the Scriptures!* Second Jesus addressed the religious leaders themselves, *calling them hypocrites!* “Greek actors were called *hypocrites*. Often, a single actor would play several different characters, and for each character the actor would use a different mask. So when they would switch characters, they would switch masks.”<sup>1</sup> *Jesus wanted the hypocrites to see their hypocrisy and repent!* So let us be genuine from the inside out; then, *knowing we have God’s forgiveness through Jesus*, let us grow in ♦knowing and ♦living the Bible!
- j. Signs of the End of the Age (24:1-35): Some are very common today: wars, famines, earthquakes, and people *falsely* claiming to be the Christ! Every such sign should remind us of the great importance of *being ready and remaining ready* THROUGH JESUS!

- k. The Day and Hour Unknown (24:36-51): Jesus said: <sup>36</sup> “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” <sup>37</sup> As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. **That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.**” (NIV) Now, think about today’s world; how many are *thinking about* AND *preparing for* Jesus’ return? Probably few☹! Since we know Jesus and the truth of His coming, *let us tell others!*

**Hymn:** “And will the Judge Descend” **TLH 610, vv. 1, 4, 6**

- l. The Parable of the Ten Virgins (25:1-13): Jesus is calling us to *live expectantly!*
- m. The Parable of the Talents (25:14-30): Jesus is calling us to *live responsibly!*
- n. The Sheep and the Goats (25:31-46): Jesus is calling us to *live compassionately!*

**Conclusion:** Even though we live in a world of spiritual darkness, we are **the light of the world** as we *reflect Jesus in word and deed*. Peter described those who believe in Jesus with these words: “**But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...**” (1Pe 2:9 NAS) So **let us shine the light of the Lord!**

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

**Choir:** “We are Singing, for the Lord Is Our Light” by Hal H. Hopson

For Much More: [www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)

*Having been saved thru Jesus, let us live for Him and share the good news!*  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230

<sup>1</sup> Kyle Idleman, not a fan (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, City on a Hill Studio, 2011), 72.