

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
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**MATTHEW'S NARRATIVE: THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY TO THE  
CRUCIFIXION**

Matthew 21:1-27:56

April 14, 2019 (Palm Sunday)

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**INTRODUCTION:** Today's message is a narrative of the things that happened between Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the crucifixion, so I do not have my traditional talking points.

Today on the calendar is Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Resurrection Sunday. On this day we remember that Jesus was received as a victorious king.

Jesus was so popular in his day that people in power felt threatened. Jesus had power over nature, sickness, death, demons, and Satan. He had no fear of anything or anyone.

As you know, because I have told you many times, a king seeking war rode a horse; a king seeking peace rode a donkey. The fact that Jesus rode a donkey may have been a disappointment for some, it may have confused some, but the overwhelming majority didn't care. They were thrilled that Jesus had come to town. We have to use our imaginations to picture what it must have been like with the streets lined on either side with people placing palm branches and articles of clothing on the ground in the pathway of Jesus.

Read with me about the triumphal entry:

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 21:1-11

*As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. 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 right away.”<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” That’s a fulfillment of Zechariah 9.

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and those that 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 Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

<sup>11</sup> The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

**EXPLANATION:** Following his entry into Jerusalem, Jesus went to the temple and he challenged the money changers, then healed the blind and the lame. The religious leaders were indignant. He threatened their power. He threatened the temple economy.

That night he stayed in nearby Bethany.

The following morning, he cursed a fig tree that did not bear fruit and taught a lesson about faith to his followers.

He went back to the temple and was questioned by whose authority he did the things he did. The temple elders tried to trick him with a few questions.

Then he told the parable of the two sons which I preached on in March. Two sons were told to go to work. One said he would not, but later did. The other said he would, but never did. This parable was about the Gentiles and Jews.

Then Jesus told the parable of the tenants. This parable was about a man who rented his vineyard to some people who did not keep their end of the deal. It was a parable about the Jews' rejection of Jesus.

In chapter 22, Jesus told the parable of the wedding banquet. It is about those who reject God's invitation to come to Jesus and those who accept it. There is a special note about a man who came to the wedding banquet but wasn't able to explain why he dressed the way he did.

Then Jesus answered the question of whether people should pay taxes and his answer was "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

Next some people questioned Jesus about marriage in heaven. If a man had been married more than once on earth, how many wives would he have in heaven? Jesus told them they missed the point because in heaven there would be no marriage.

Following that, Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment. He summarized the law and the prophets in two commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Next, Jesus asked "Whose Son Is the Christ?" After that conversation, the scripture says, "No one dared to ask him any more questions."

Let's move on...

In chapter 23, Jesus gave his seven woes to the Pharisees and called them hypocrites. He didn't hold back. This may be the strongest message from our Lord—all the language is very strong. In verse 24, Jesus gave signs of the end of the age...he tells his disciple no one knows when he'll return, not even him.

In chapter 24, Jesus tells three parables -- the parables of the ten virgins, the talents, and the sheep and the goats.

In chapter 26, a woman anointed Jesus with expensive perfume, which was symbolic gesture for his upcoming death.

Then this series of events begins –

Judas, one of the disciples, went to the chief priests and agreed to plot with them.

Since it was Passover time, Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples in what we call the last supper. He linked the age-old celebration of the Passover with his upcoming crucifixion. In the book of Exodus, the Hebrew people were enslaved by the Egyptians. Plagues came upon Egypt, brought by God, the last of which was the death angel passing through and taking out the first born of every family. Moses required the Hebrew people to paint the blood of a lamb around their door frames so the death angel would pass over them.

In the years to come, the Jews would remember the Passover annually. More than a thousand years later, Jesus met with his disciples to celebrate the Passover, and he linked the original blood of the lamb that spared the Hebrew firstborn with his blood, stating in chapter Matthew 26:28 -- *“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”* We know that Jesus is the lamb of God and those who trust in him will not experience the second death, but only one.

Then Jesus predicted Peter’s denial.

A while later, Jesus was arrested by a religious mob. Judas betrayed him with a kiss. The kiss was a signal. Those who arrested him surely knew who he was, so why did it happen this way? Jesus even said in chapter 26:55 -- *“Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.”* Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Next, Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin – a group of religious rulers. I want to point out to you that up to this point there were no government officials involved. The arrest was done by religious leaders, the trial was held by religious leaders. It was against the law to try a man on a holy day. In fact, everything about the trial of Jesus was illegal.

They brought false witnesses before this phony court as they looked for false evidence, but they could not find any. Finally, one man said he heard Jesus say, “I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.” Jesus stayed silent...then he was asked point blank, “Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

Jesus said he was. The high priest tore his clothes saying Jesus had spoken blasphemy! The crowd said he was worthy of death. Then they spit on him, they hit and punched him. They said, “Hey, you are a prophet, who hit you?”

Peter followed Jesus to the courtyard gate and three times people recognized him as a follower of Jesus. He heard a rooster crow and remembered that Jesus told him he would deny Jesus three times before the rooster crowed.

Judas, feeling bad for what he had done, killed himself.

Now, finally, after all this, a Roman official gets involved. He was the governor, Pilate. Pilate asked Jesus if he was the king of the Jews, and he said, “It is as you say.” He was accused by the chief priests and elders and said nothing. Pilate asked Jesus if he heard what they were saying against him. To Pilate’s amazement, Jesus remained quiet.

It was the custom to release a prisoner during this holiday feast and Pilate had a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. Pilate asked the crowd if they wanted Barabbas or Jesus released. Surely, they didn’t want Barabbas released – he was a criminal. Surely, they would see that they were just envious of Jesus and come to their senses.

About that time, Pilate’s wife said she had troubling dream and to leave Jesus alone.

But the crowd demanded that Barabbas be released and Jesus executed. Pilate wanted to know what crime he had committed, and they yelled, “Crucify him. Crucify him!” I want you to look at:

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 27:24-26

*When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was*

*starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"* <sup>25</sup> *All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"* <sup>26</sup> *Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.*

Now, Roman soldiers were involved. They were experts at torture and killing. They liked it.

They stripped Jesus and put a scarlet robe on him. Then they put a crown of thorns on him, put a scepter in his right hand and knelt in front of him mocking him, "Hail King of the Jews!" They spit on him, hit him on the head with the scepter again and again. Then they took the robe off and put his own clothes back on him.

A man named Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry the cross of Jesus. They nailed Jesus to the cross and gambled over who would get his clothes. They put a sign on the cross that said, "This is Jesus, King of the Jews."

On either side of Jesus were two robbers. People passed by insulting him and shaking their heads.

"If he can destroy the temple in three days and rebuild it, come down off of that cross." "If he trusts God, let God rescue him!"

For three hours, the sky was dark. Jesus called out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some said he's calling out to Elijah and others said, "Let's see if Elijah is calling out to him."

Then Jesus died.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 27:50-56

*And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.*

<sup>51</sup> *At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split* <sup>52</sup> *and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.* <sup>53</sup> *They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.*

<sup>54</sup> *When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”*

<sup>55</sup> *Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. <sup>56</sup> Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.*

It was a fearful day for the followers of Jesus. Being on this side of history, we know about the Resurrection. We know what happened. But at that point, his followers did not know what tomorrow held.

Jesus gave his life for you and me...and whosoever will may come to Jesus.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 20:28

*“...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

On that cross he became sin. He paid the price for sin. He was the sin-bearer for you and me. Because of his atonement, we can be forgiven for our sins!

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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