

JESUS
21. KING: Triumph and Trouble
STUDY AHEAD

In preparation for this week's message, read Matthew 21-23. This section is titled "triumph and trouble" because Jesus encountered a great amount of trouble right after His "triumphant entry" into Jerusalem for the Passover Festival.

- 1. Matthew 21:1-11.** What were the people expecting of Jesus as He arrived in Jerusalem? What does the word "hosanna" mean?
- 2. Matthew 21:12-17.** Do some research and see if you can figure out who owned and operated the money-changing business in the Temple. Why was Jesus so angry about this?
- 3. Matthew 21:18-22.** What symbolic significance was behind Jesus' cursing of the fig tree? (See Jeremiah 8:13; Hosea 9:10.)
- 4. Matthew 21:28-32.** Who do you think Jesus was referring to when He told the parable of the two sons?
- 5. Matthew 21:33-46.** Jesus was very direct in the parable of the tenant farmers. Try to identify who the different characters in the parable represent (owner, servants, farmers, son). How did the Jewish leaders react to this parable?
- 6. Matthew 22:1-14.** What is the basic message behind this parable? Why did Jesus speak this parable in that context?
- 7. Matthew 22:15-22.** Why was it fitting that the Pharisees test Jesus with the question about *paying taxes to Rome*?
- 8. Matthew 22:23-33.** The Sadducees brought to Jesus a trick question that grew out of their own fundamental belief system (or lack of belief system!) Why was this question fitting coming from them?
- 9. Matthew 22:34-40.** This began as a trick question from a wise guy (a Jewish legal expert); but it ended on very friendly terms. Read the parallel account in Mark 12:28-34 to see how it ended.
- 10. Matthew 22:41-46.** What was the logic behind Jesus' question that stumped His opponents?
- 11. Matthew 23.** Can you find all the "woes" that Jesus pronounced in this message against the religious leaders? Yet, how did the message end?