



Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-17 | Ryan Pfeiffer | 3-24-24

INTRO. Ever been in a huge Crowd?

- Concert, dance party mosh-pit, a Black Friday at Best Buy,
- Energy, the excitement, intensity

Every Gospel talks about THE CROWDS at Jesus' entry to Jerusalem

vs 10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred ...

1. Ancients historians put Jerusalem anywhere from 250K to 2M! At Passover.

They want us to hear the Shouting, the Singing—> great expectations.

They sang and shouted...

Hosanna in the Highest... representing pent up expectations for hundreds of yrs!

Blessed is the King of Israel ... expectations of deliverance and freedom

Hosanna to the Son of David... Messianic expectations.

To add fuel to the fire... stories were spreading thru the crowd about Jesus...

- He had raised Lazarus from the dead! (John 12:17).

John tells us that even Jesus' enemies had to admit "The whole world has gone after him!" (Jn 12:9)

But in just 5 days Jesus will be arrested and this same crowd will shout "crucify him!" How does it end up here?

It's in today's passage we see that as soon as Jesus begins exercising his authority as King—people begin to have second thoughts.

FOCUS: Accepting Jesus as KING of our life means embracing his authority to cleanse us so that he can renew us.

FIRST: HIS AUTHORITY. v12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.

PPT. Temple courts... Gentile courts— people from all nations could gather.



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It's this area Jesus is concerned with... Maybe not everyone else's priority!

The Religious Leaders are Clearly offended and angry about this... v15 "they were indignant" WHY??

Mark's gospel "And who gave YOU authority to do this?" (Mark 11:28).

Jesus is assuming the right to tell them how the TEMPLE should be used.

He's not just telling them... he's doing something about it... right there... AND THEY are like "What gives you the right!?" Like moving furniture in our home!

Jesus CLEANSING THE TEMPLE— represents the way Jesus comes into our lives to restore the priority of God's presence in our life.

Because you are that TEMPLE. "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?" —1 Cor 3:16.

AND - RELIGIOUS LEADERS represent that part of us - offended by Jesus' claim to tell us what our lives are really meant to be.

ILLUS: Mentor— "Ryan, you don't have any margin in your life."

REFLECT: Where have you sensed a need for Jesus' authority in your life?

Thought life	worry, fear, focus	Phil 4:6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.
Attention	social media, news feeds, what we look at	Phil 4:8 Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable
Alcohol	to calm, escape and ease the tension.	Eph 5:18 And don't get drunk with wine... be filled his Spirit
Finances	tithing, generosity, sacrificial giving.	Eph 4:28 ...give generously to others in need.
Sexuality	dating, purity, sexual identity, monogamy	1 These 4:3 God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.
Time	Sabbath, rest, reflection, margin, relationships	Psalm 46:10 Be still and know that I am God... Isaiah 30:15 In repentance and rest... quietness and trust...



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NOW: HIS RENEWAL. 13 "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'" 14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.

Often people will ask me, what does renewal mean?

FIRST... it means a breakthrough in our depth of love for God.

Jesus said the most important thing in life is love... "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

- Sometimes our lives incrementally drift from that first love... PPT clutter.
- Sometimes he is just taking us deeper... taking all areas of our hearts

Our love for God feeds prayer... 13 My house will be called a house of prayer.

Where prayer fades... our love for other things overpowers love for God...

EM Bounds. "Prayer honors God, acknowledges His being, exalts His power, adores His providence, secures His aid."

Prayer restores our sense of God's presence... the fragrance of his holiness.

SECOND... renewal means growth in the breadth of love for others... v14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple and he healed them.

A religious spirit resists the messiness of God's love for outcasts, outsiders, needy people...

Jesus Movement... it was the barefoot, longhaired, drugged out hippies.

There was so much fear—> what they were doing to culture...

1 John 4:18 But perfect love drives out fear...

Renewed love for God always produces a greater love for others.

Matt 22:39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'



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As a church we seek to cultivate compassion for all people...

This is a love that holds to biblical truth while holding out grace/mercy.

Deuteronomy 10:18 He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.