

**WHO IS THIS?**  
**Matthew 21:1-17**  
**11/13/11**

Jesus lived approximately 33 years on this earth.

Yet Matthew spends almost 37% of the verses in His gospel focusing on the last week of Jesus' life.

The other gospel writers likewise spend a disproportional amount of their gospels focusing on Jesus' last seven days.

Luke 25%, Mark 38%, and John 48%

The last week begins with Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.

It brings to a crescendo the question, "Who is this Jesus?"

Some say that Jesus never claimed to be God or the Messiah.

This is not true.

We see Jesus' claim to deity several times in John's gospel.  
cf John 8:23-24

We likewise see Jesus' claim to be both God and Messiah  
in our passage this morning.

**1. Jesus intentionally chose to present Himself as the promised Messiah. 21:1-7**

Up to this point Jesus had never before done anything to promote a public demonstration.

In fact He had repeatedly withdrawn from the crowds when there was any hint of such a thing.

He repeatedly said, "My time has not yet come."

But now Jesus is inviting attention.

Jesus here is unequivocally identifying himself as God and the Messiah.

**3 Jesus refers to himself as **the Lord**.**

This word can simply mean the master or owner.

But Jesus wasn't the owner of this animal.

How could He say that He was the Master or Owner?

The Greek word for **Lord** here is the same word used to translate the Hebrew word Yahweh.

As Yahweh, Jesus is Maker and Owner of everything.

**4-5** Jesus is intentionally fulfilling Messianic prophecies.

By riding the donkey into Jerusalem Jesus intentionally fulfilled a significant OT prophecy concerning the Messiah.

He applies it to Himself.

He claims to be “your King.”

Here Jesus paraphrases Zechariah 9:9

**Zechariah 9:9** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

King David had ridden a donkey 1000 years earlier.

But after King David, the Jewish kings switched to riding horses.

The donkey was considered unsuited to the dignity of kings.

Yet Jesus humbly entered the city, mounted on a donkey as Zechariah had prophesied.

This precise fulfillment of this Messianic prophecy did not escape the Jewish multitudes.

They responded with titles and accolades fit only for the Messiah

**2. The multitudes that came with Jesus proclaimed Him to be the Messiah. 21:8-11**

**8** Spreading garments on the street was an ancient act of homage reserved for high royalty

They recognized Jesus claim to be King of the Jews.

**9** *Hosana*- means “save us now”

*Son of David-* A title for the Messiah

**10** Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem of Sunday.

According to the calculations of historians and OT scholars this is exactly 483 years after the decree of Artaxerxes mentioned in [Daniel 9:24–26](#)

The people of Jerusalem were stirred up and wondering, “Who is this?”

**10** The multitudes responded that this was the prophet Jesus

**3. The religious leaders were *indignant*. 21:12-16a**

**12** This was the second time Jesus cleansed the temple.

John 2:14–16 describes a similar incident at the beginning of Christ’s public ministry.

The religious leaders had turned the court yard of the temple into a market place for their personal profit.

The priests required the temple tax to be paid in Jewish money.

The temple money changers charged an inflated exchange rate.

The priests inspected the animals brought in for sacrifice.

If flawed, the “temple merchants” sold them a “kosher” animal at an exorbitant rate of 10-20X its market value.

Jesus was a threat to the authority, financial interests and reputations of the religious leaders.

Mark 11:18 tells us that they began to seek how to destroy Him.

*Jesus is a threat to many people in our day.*

A threat to the way they have chosen to live their lives.

A threat to the religions teachings they have chosen to follow.

**13** Jesus states that the temple of God is to be a house of prayer.

**Before we condemn the Jewish leaders of Jesus' day, we should examine ourselves to see how we fair.**

Jesus hates commercialized "worship".

Money hungry pastors and evangelists

Commercialized Christian concerts, and the sale of religious paraphernalia

Throughout most of history Christian music was written for the glory of God and the worship of God's people.

It was public domain. (Not copywrited)

Today most of Christian music is copywrited for the profit and glory of the writer and professional singers.

If a church uses it without paying them the church is sued.

The Contemporary Christian Music countdown and The Contemporary Christian Music Awards are for the glory and profit of Christian performers.

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Jesus hates it when Christianity becomes about making money.

When worship becomes simply a form of Christian entertainment, it is wrong.

When worship is primarily focused on how "I feel" it is a perversion of what worship is all about.

God is to be treated as holy.

Worship is not to be commercialized, trivialized, or personalized.

A house of worship is a place for us to draw near to God.

**Acts 2:42** They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Why do you come to church?

Do you come to church in order learn God's word,  
encourage others, worship and pray?

Or do we come for some other reason?

**14** Jesus used the occasion to demonstrate His deity by healing the blind and lame who came to Him.

**15-16a** When they saw the miracles and heard the proclamations of the crowds the religious leaders became indignant.

**4. Jesus claims to be the Lord God. 21:16b-17**

Jesus claims the right to receive worship as God.

**Psalm 8** is speaking of praise for God

Jesus had more than proven His deity of this day.

He demonstrated His omniscience.

Having just arrived in Bethphage Jesus had no opportunity to make arrangements for the use of these animals.

Yet Jesus knew:

The colt's location

The fact that it was tied-up

The fact that it had never been ridden

How to respond when confronted by the owners

Such detailed foreknowledge reveals his divine omniscience.

Jesus fulfilled Messianic prophecies.

He was of the right lineage

He came of the right day. Cf Daniel 9

He came in the right way. cf Zechariah 9:9

Jesus revealed His divine power.

He healed the blind and lame. v. 14

**Who Do You Say He Is?**

Jesus fulfilled several OT prophecies when He made His Triumphal entry into Jerusalem and cleansed the temple.

The Bible also teaches that Jesus is coming again to judge and to reign.

Zechariah not only prophesied the Triumphal Entry, He also prophesied a second coming which will be quite different. (Zechariah 14:4-9)

#### **Revelation 20:11-15**

**Matthew 16:15** He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

**John 8:24** "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

**1 John 5:11-12** And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

**Jesus is God come in human flesh, the promised Messiah.**

What will you do with Him?