**JESUS IN JERUSALEM - Road to the Resurrection**

***EVENTS IN JERUSALEM DURING “HOLY WEEK”* after the TRIUMPHAL ENTRY**

* CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE
* JESUS SILENCES THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS
* LAMENT OVER JERUSALEM

***“LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS”***

***I. JESUS SILENCES (THREE GROUPS) OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS -*** *Matt 22:15-46*

***#1 THE HERODIANS***

***Matt 22:15-22***Then the **Pharisees** met together to plot how to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. **16**They sent some of their disciples, along with the supporters of **Herod**, to meet with him. “Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You teach the way of God truthfully. You are impartial and don’t play favorites. **17**Now tell us what you think about this: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

**18**But Jesus knew their evil motives. “You hypocrites!” he said. “Why are you trying to trap me? **19**Here, show me the coin used for the tax.” When they handed him a Roman coin,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+22#fen-NLT-23866a)] **20**he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on it?” **21**“Caesar’s,” they replied.“Well, then,” he said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.”

**22**His reply amazed them, and they went away.

 ***#2 THE SADDUCEES***

***Matt 22:22***

**23**That same day Jesus was approached by some **Sadducees**—religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead…

**Matt 22:31-33** “But now, as to whether there will be a resurrection of the dead—haven’t you ever read about this in the Scriptures? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said, **32**‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

**33**When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

**#3 THE EXPERT OF THE PHARISEES:**

MATT 22:34-40 “The Greatest Commandment”

**34**Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. **35**One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: **36**“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

**37**Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’**38**This is the first and greatest commandment. **39**And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40**All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

 ***Last Verse of the chapter***

***Matt 22:46*** *No one could answer him. And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.*

*II.* ***LAMENT OVER JERUSALEM – “***JESUS SHOWS HIS LOVE FOR ***OTHERS”***

**Matt 23:37-39** “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. **38**Look, your house is left to you desolate. **39**For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

Jesus’ Lament:

* 1. *He loved the people who were rejecting Him, He “longed” to gather his them as “A HEN gathers her chicks under her wings”. Jesus shows deep love, even maternal love, for his people. This reveals his deep desire to love us tenderly, securely and intimately.*
	2. *You will not see me again UNTIL you say “Baruch Ha-Ba Be-Shem Adonai” (*“Blessed is He who come in the name of the Lord*”)*
	3. *He is waiting for those words to come forth, but not just from anywhere, but from the people of Israel. He has not given up on them.*
1. **CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE** JESUS SHOWS HIS LOVE FOR ***GOD*”**

**Mark 11:15-18** When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, **16**and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. **17**He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.”

**18**When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill him. But they were afraid of him because the people were so amazed at his teaching.

***John 2:14-16*****14**In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. ***15****Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple.* He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers’ coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. **16**Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, “Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father’s house into a marketplace!”

Jesus was showing honor and *Love for His father*, over those who made his house a den of thieves.

There are no more “Temple” buildings.

* The Veil Of the Temple was ripped in half, rendering it inoperative. God’s presence is poured out on all the earth.
* ***The***Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70AD and never rebuilt. There are “synagogues” but no real temples.
* God does not dwell in temples made with hands.

**Acts 17:24** "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples,

**WE are the Temple of the Holy Spirit**

**1 Cor 3:16** Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

*GOOD THINGS HAPPEN* when Jesus cleanses OUR temples:

**Luke 19:45-48** **45**Then Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people selling animals for sacrifices. **46**He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be a house of prayer,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.”

**47*After that,*** he taught daily in the Temple, but the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the other leaders of the people began planning how to kill him. **48**But they could think of nothing, because all the **people hung on every word he said.**

***Matthew’s Version:***

**Matthew 21:12-15** **12**Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. **13**He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves!”

*(Then…)*

**14**The **blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them**. **15**The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard **even the *children* in the Temple shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David**.”

He filled it with his presence:

1. Teaching every day until the crowd hung on every word he said.(Luke 19)
2. The Blind and Lame came into the temple and he healed them…everyone saw the MIRACLES (Matt 21)
3. Even the children in the Temple shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David.”(Matt 21). *[Children’s ministry]*

***“When the Holy Spirit removes the junk from our temples, it gives JESUS room to move right in and make great things happen!”***

David prayed for the Lord to do this in His own life. He welcomed it.

**PSALM 139:23-24** **23**Search me, O God, and know my heart;
    test me and know my anxious thoughts.
**24**Point out anything in me that offends you,
    and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

**This was a prayer of David showing his deep love for God,**

**Let’s make this our prayer as well, as we show our *love for God and Others!***