

“The Tax Collector”

(Matthew 21:1-11)

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Chapel Pointe
Palm Sunday
March 28, 2010

I. Introduction

A. Choosing the Twelve

1. No seminarians or theologians
2. Ordinary guys with a story to tell
3. Today, the last of the Twelve Apostles

B. Matthew

Name: Matthew & Levi

1. Matthew may have been the name given him by Jesus

Family: Son of Alphaeus

1. From Capernaum
2. Possibly the brother of the Apostles James (the lesser)

Occupation: Tax collector

Personality:

1. Matthew cared about his friends

Ministry:

1. Tradition says he ministered to the Jews both in Israel and abroad
 - a. Iran, Syria, and Ethiopia

Death

1. The earliest traditions indicate he was burned at the stake.

Wrote: The Gospel of Matthew

1. What he's best known for

II. Gospel of Matthew

A. Purpose in writing?

1. To convince the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah
 - a. Song, "Jesus, Messiah"
2. His systematic argument that Jesus was that King

B. Jesus had a King's

1. Ancestry (ch. 1)

- a. Genealogy...line of David

2. Arrival (ch. 1)

- a. Declared by angels to the shepherds

3. Adoration (ch. 2)

- a. The three kings bowed to baby Jesus
- b. Gifts from kings to *the King*

4. Annunciation (ch. 3)

- a. John the Baptist (The Herald of the King)
- b. "Behold the Lamb of God"

5. Affirmation (ch. 3)

- a. At His baptism the voice of God

"This is my Beloved son in whom I am well pleased"

- b. Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove

6. Advantage (ch. 4)

- a. The 40 days of intense temptation
- b. Victory over Satan

7. Address (ch. 5-7)

- a. Beginning with the Sermon on the Mount
- b. No *man* ever spoke like this!

8. Authority (ch. 8-20)

- a. Power over disease and the devil
- b. All of the evidence was in!
 - 1. Jesus is the Messiah
- c. Multitudes follow Him as He marched toward Jerusalem
 - 1. The King is coming!

9. Acclamation (ch. 21)

- a. Jesus received a king's reception
 - 1. The triumphal entry
- b. It occurred on what we call "Palm Sunday"
 - 1. The Sunday before Easter
 - a. Which happens to be today!
 - 2. Let's take a look at what happened

III. Matthew 21:1-11

A. The Approach (Matthew 21:1)

(1) As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives,

1. Two miles east of Jerusalem
2. Jesus arrived 6 days before the Passover (John 12)
3. My first glimpse from the top of the Mount of Olives
 - a. The sun setting over Jerusalem
 - b. The Temple Mount
 - c. Today the Dome of the Rock and Il Aksa Mosque
4. Oh what it must have looked like when Jesus gazed at it
5. The crowds grew as Jesus approached Jerusalem
 - a. It was Passover time in Jerusalem
6. Picture the crowded city
 - a. Up to half of all Jews gathered for Passover
 - b. The surrounding hills covered with temporary dwellings
 - c. People packed everywhere

B. The Animals (Matthew 21:1-7)

(1) As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, (2) 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. (3) If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

1. A donkey and her colt
 - a. Took the mother so the colt would follow
2. How kings entered a conquered city
 - a. Riding a white charger
 - b. Sword and soldiers
3. How Jesus entered Jerusalem

- a. On a lowly donkey
- b. No sword or soldiers

(4) This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet (Zech. 9:9): (5) “Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” (6) The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. (7) They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.

C. The Acclamation (Matthew 21:8-11)

(8) A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

(9) 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!”

1. The Passover meant deliverance
 - a. 1500 years earlier from Egypt
 - b. Now from Rome – “Save us now!”
 1. *“Hosanna” – “Save us now!”*
 2. *“Son of David”* – Name for coming Messiah
2. The whole city rushed to see him

(10) When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this ?” (11) The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

- a. “Who is it?”
- b. “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee!”
3. Fulfilled a 600 year old prophecy in Daniel
 - a. There was a sense of anticipation
 - b. Because of what the prophet Daniel had written
4. Daniel spoke of a time when the Jews would recognize their Messiah

IV. Daniel’s Prophecy

A. Daniel 9:24-27

(24) Seventy sevens are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgressions, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. (25) Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven sevens, and sixty-two sevens. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

1. Who were they waiting for?
 - a. “The Anointed One, the ruler”
 - b. The coming Messiah

2. When they could expect Him?

$$\begin{array}{r}
 7 \text{ sevens} = 49 \\
 + \underline{62 \text{ sevens}} = \underline{434} \\
 69 \text{ sevens} = 483 \text{ years}
 \end{array}$$

3. They knew the exact date the clock started in 445 BC
 - a. *“From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem”*
 - b. (Neh 2:1)—“In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes...”
4. After 483 years the Jews would recognize their Savior
 - a. And they knew it was time
5. Some scholars have pinned it to the exact day of the Triumphal Entry
6. But Daniel said immediately after this something would happen

(26) After the sixty-two sevens, the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing.

- a. After being publicly recognized...he would be publicly rejected
 - b. Condemned and crucified
7. And the clock would stop
 8. And Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed (Daniel 9)

(26) After the sixty-two sevens, the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

a. Jerusalem and the Temple destroyed by Rome in 70 AD

9 And we would all wait for the final seven years

(27) He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

10. How long is the gap?

1. Nearly 2000 years now
2. But the clock is about to begin ticking again
3. The signs of his return grow stronger each day

11. Won't return on a donkey next time....

E. When He returns (Rev. 19:11-16)

¹¹ I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one but he himself knows. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.