

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Follow His Lead

Speaker:

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Scriptures:

Matthew 21:1–17

Theme: Do not be ashamed of the Savior's way; follow his lead.

Introduction: You've likely heard the phrase, "He talked the talk, but didn't walk the walk." Our desires and wills to complete what we speak do not often match up. We end up overpromising and underdelivering. But Matthew's gospel captures a very different picture of the Son of God. Jesus Christ never said or taught anything that he did not walk out to the fullest. He was completely faithful. Following him comes at great cost, but the way to abundant life is through following the Saviors lead.

Matthew 21:1–17 can be broken into three sections:

1. Christ triumphant on a donkey (1–11)

- Matthew 21 begins in the outskirts of Jerusalem, five days prior to the Passover.
- Jesus commands his disciples to go and fetch a donkey for him to ride into the city, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9.
- As he enters, the crowds cry "Hosanna" (Heb. "O Lord, save!") and the people in the city ask "Who is this?".
- Jesus was no longer keeping his Messianic identity secret, but his purposes were not at all what the disciples or crowds wanted from him.

2. Christ indignant in the temple (12–13)

- Upon entering the city, Jesus went into the temple and drove out all who bought and sold there.
- The temple had become the place for people to buy animals for sacrifices ("a den of robbers"), rather than a house of prayer like Isaiah wrote (Is. 56:7).
- Jesus's response in the temple was an indictment on shallow sacrifices—humans require atonement that is outside of themselves and their doing.

3. Christ rejected in his wonders (14–17)

- Jesus healed the blind and the lame in the temple after clearing it out.
- Despite these miraculous signs, the chief priests and scribes were indignant.
- When questioned about the people praising him, Jesus quotes from Psalm 8:2 to explain that God prepares his praises in even infants.
- The chief priests and scribes hated the way of Jesus, but his people must gladly follow his lead.

Questions:

1. How do you need to carefully weigh your expectations and desires for the King?
2. In what circumstances do you need to stop being passive or permissive?
3. What does it look like for you to speak for Christ in a way that seeks the approval of heaven and not earth?