

Introduction

- The gospels demonstrate for us that that Jesus disciplined His followers throughout the normal course of _____ during His life and ministry.
- In light of this, we should expect that the Lord intends for us to live _____ as His followers throughout the various circumstances of our own lives.

Key Point: As disciples of Jesus, we must recognize that every aspect of our lives _____ to Him as our Master and that there will therefore be various kinds of opportunities presented to us in which we can bear witness to Him.

Matthew 21:1-11 — The Triumphal Entry

The Context

- In 20:17-28, Jesus along with His followers (the twelve and others) began the journey to Jerusalem for the Passover. On the way, He addressed the true nature of discipleship, stating that even the Son of Man came to serve and not to be served.
- In 20:29-31, Jesus healed two blind men who declared openly that He was the promised Davidic King as He passed through Jericho.

Observations from the Text

1. Jesus wished to clearly convey some significant *imagery* as He entered into Jerusalem.

Matt. 21:1-5—¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples ² saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵ “SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, ‘BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, HUMBLE, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A BEAST OF BURDEN.’”

⇒ Jesus demonstrated for the disciples His authority over their _____ circumstances.

⇒ The _____ imagery is significant.

Judges 5:10—“Tell of it, you who ride on white donkeys, you who sit on rich carpets and you who walk by the way.”

Gen. 49:10-11a—¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. ¹¹ Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine...

⇒ Matthew recognizes that these events _____ the words of Zechariah 9:9.

2. The events of the day were a public declaration that Jesus was *Messiah*.

Matt. 21:6-11—⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹ And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

⇒ The crowd that welcomed Him was primarily comprised of _____.

⇒ The crowd recognize His _____ as King.

Their actions:

Their words:

⇒ In contrast to His followers, the local population of Jerusalem deemed Jesus to be a _____.

Key Point: When the opportunity presented itself, Jesus’ followers made a public _____ of who He truly was as Messiah.

Matthew 22:15-22 — Submitting to the Ultimate Authority

1. Jesus' enemies sent their followers to Him in order to stir up controversy so that they might arrest Him.

Matt. 21:15-17—¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶ And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

⇒ They addressed Him in a respectful but wholly _____ way.

⇒ They cleverly presented Jesus with a controversial question and two possible answers.

If He answers, "No..." →

If He answers, "Yes..." →

2. Jesus' answer recognized both God's *ultimate* authority as well as the *legitimacy* of lower authorities that have been established over mankind.

Matt. 21:18-22—¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹ They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

⇒ Jesus responded to their question with one of His own as well as with an object lesson.

⇒ Jesus's question contained two important terms that help us interpret the full meaning of His answer to them.

"image"—εἰκών (eikōn)

Gen. 1:26-27 (LXX)—²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humankind according to our image (eikōn) and according to likeness, and let them rule the fish of the sea and the birds of the sky and the cattle and all the earth and all the creeping things that creep upon the earth." ²⁷ And God made humankind; according to divine image (eikōn) he made it; male and female he made them.

"inscription"—ἐπιγραφή (epigraphē)

Prov. 7:1-3 (LXX)—¹ My son, honor the Lord, and you will grow strong, and fear no other but him. ² Guard my commandments, and you will live, and my words like the apples of your eyes. ³ And bind them on your fingers, and engrave (epigraphō) them on the surface of your heart.

(1) Because the coin bears Caesar's image and inscription, it is rightly _____ to Him in accord with his commands.

(2) Because we bear the image of God, our _____ are rightfully His and should bear the inscription of His _____ to us as His people.

Key Point: The proper response of all mankind to the ultimate authority of God is to live a life of _____, reflecting His commands as one lives under the lesser authorities that He has established.

Principles for Courageous Discipleship

- True discipleship begins with a _____ recognition of who Jesus truly is.
- As Jesus' disciples, we must recognize that how we _____ to lesser authorities reflects on what we truly believe about His authority.
- As Jesus' disciples, we must recognize the _____ opportunities that we are afforded in life to proclaim Jesus to others.