

## *A note from Kathy*

*As Jesus approached Jerusalem, he sent two unnamed disciples to go and get a donkey. I love seeing the obedience of these men as they quickly did what they had been asked to do. Are you easily instructed by God? Can he merely ask you to do something and your response is to do it immediately? You might say, well this is such a small thing to go and fetch a donkey. Yes it is, but if you are not accustomed to obeying in the small things, why would God trust you to do the big things?*

## *Observation*

1. Look at your map and locate the places mentioned. Most Bibles have maps in the back.
2. Jesus sent two of his disciples ahead of him. What were they instructed to do?
3. In verses 2-9, we see Jesus fulfilling the prophecies concerning the Messiah. Who do we see gathering outside of Jerusalem? What do we see them doing?
4. Try to picture the scene as Jesus entered Jerusalem. If you like drawing things out, this would be a perfect scene to sketch. I like doing this, but it is only stick people, no true artist here. Drawing it out makes me pay closer attention to details.
5. If you do not want to draw the scene, at least make a list of the events and all the things people were saying that day as Jesus entered Jerusalem.
6. Jesus went straight to the temple as he came into Jerusalem. What did he find when he arrived?
7. What did Jesus do that probably caused quite a scene?
8. In spite of all the events that day, what do we see that Jesus did once again in verse 14?
9. Let's look at the chief priests and the teachers of the law for a moment.
  - a. What did they see?
  - b. What did they hear?

- c. What had God called them to do? Look up Leviticus 10:8-11; what was the assignment given to the priests?
- d. What was their reaction to all that they saw and heard?
- e. What did they ask Jesus that day?

10. What was Jesus' response in verses 16-17? What did he do? What time of the day was it?

11. Verse 18 begins a new day, "early in the morning;" where was Jesus headed? Read Matthew 21:18-22. Do you see the Pharisees illustrated in this story of the fig tree? Fill in the chart below with the facts you know about both.

	<u>Fig tree</u>	<u>Pharisees</u>
Purpose		
Appearance		
Truth about		
Fate		

12. Jesus never misses an opportunity to teach his disciples. What lesson does he reinforce in verses 18-22? We have said over and over that fruit is the proof; are you producing fruit?

13. While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, the Pharisees took this opportunity to question him on his authority. How did this work out for them?

14. Write a brief paragraph describing the parable of the two sons and the truth Jesus was teaching.

15. Jesus was very clear in his meaning when he stated John the Baptist's ministry and purpose. What did he say that John was called of God to do?

16. Who listened to John? Who did not listen to John?

17. Write a brief paragraph describing the parable of the tenants. Try to identify the characters of this parable; the landowner, the farmers (tenants), the 1<sup>st</sup> servants sent, the 2<sup>nd</sup> servants sent, the son sent.
18. What was the response by the Pharisees to Jesus' question, "What will he do to those tenants?"
19. Their own words condemned them. What was the Pharisees' response in verses 45-46?

## *Application*

1. Jesus sent two disciples to get a donkey. What details did he give them, and what details did he not give them?

It is vital to our walk of faith that we value and repeat the type of obedience we see from these disciples. This is unquestioning obedience. Is the Lord free to make a request of you and know you will obey right away?

- When the Lord speaks to you are you quick to obey?  
**Psalms 119:60** *I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.*
  - What about acts of service and sacrifice? Do you quickly see them as God's divine call to you or do you hope someone else handles it?  
**Hebrews 13:16** *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*
  - What about something as simple as a word of encouragement? Are you quick to give it? Proverbs says a word at just the right time is a valuable treasure.  
**Proverbs 25:11** *A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.*
2. John 12:12-16 gives us further details of this event. We see the disciples did not fully understand all that was taking place, but after the resurrection, they looked back and saw the prophecies that had been fulfilled concerning the Messiah. It is said that

hindsight is 20/20; isn't it wonderful to look back over your life and see how God was working in ways that were unknown to you at the time? In spite of the fact that they did not have a full understanding, they obediently followed Jesus. How easily are you led?

**John 12:12-16** *The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" 14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, 15 "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." 16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him...*

3. Jesus responded to the question he was asked by the religious leaders and then went on to Bethany to rest for the night. This had been another long day for him. What can we learn from Jesus' example here? Our world is spiraling out of control morally speaking. Knowing this might cause us to panic. What are some of the ways that studying the life of our Savior enables you to walk confidently?
4. Have you taken advantage of opportunities this week to share some of what God has shown you in Matthew 21? If so, share the details with your small group. If you have children still at home, this makes excellent dinner time conversational teaching.
5. The Pharisees were afraid of the crowd. I suppose there are times when fear of man can keep us from sinning. Can you think of times fear of man has kept you from sinning? (If not, I guess you don't drive much.)