

Pastor Roy's Sermon on Matthew 21:1-22 (January 7, 2026)

—Below are questions from that lesson to further our understanding—

1. How does Jesus' choice to enter Jerusalem on a donkey rather than a warhorse challenge our modern understanding of what true kingship and authority look like?
2. The crowd shouted 'Hosanna' on Palm Sunday but cried 'Crucify Him' days later. What does this reveal about the fickleness of human faith when it is based on expectations rather than true understanding?
3. Jesus cursed the fig tree for being barren despite looking healthy from a distance. In what ways might our own spiritual lives appear fruitful outwardly while lacking genuine fruit inwardly?
4. The religious leaders were indignant at the children praising Jesus and the wonderful works He performed. Why do you think religious activity and tradition can sometimes become obstacles to recognizing God's actual presence and work?
5. Jesus cleansed the Temple twice during His ministry, driving out those who turned God's house into a marketplace. What are the modern equivalents of turning places of worship into 'dens of robbers' today?
6. The sermon emphasizes that Jesus fulfilled prophecies from hundreds of years earlier, including Zechariah 9:9. How does the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy strengthen or challenge your faith in Christ as Messiah?
7. Jesus tells His disciples that with faith and without doubt, they could move mountains. What is the difference between wishful thinking and the kind of faith Jesus describes here?
8. The whole city was 'stirred up' when Jesus entered Jerusalem. What does it mean for our hearts to be genuinely stirred by God rather than just caught up in crowd enthusiasm?
9. Jesus promises that whatever we ask in prayer we will receive if we have faith. How does praying according to God's will relate to this promise, and what does it teach us about the nature of true faith?
10. The barren fig tree serves as a picture of Israel looking good on the outside but bearing no fruit. How can we examine our own lives to ensure we are not just maintaining religious appearances but actually bearing spiritual fruit?