

Confrontation and Comfort

Matthew 20:29-34, 21:1-17

(Jesus asked the disciples) "Who do you say that I am.?"
Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **Matthew 16:15-16**

Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ. **Matthew 16:20.**

Jesus orchestrates every aspect of his triumphant entry.

Matthew 21:1-4

1. By taking the donkeys, Jesus invokes the privileges of a king.
2. By taking the donkeys, Jesus is fulfilling the ancient prophecy. (Cf. Zechariah 9:9)

Matthew 21:6-11

1. Jesus is bringing a crowd with him from Jericho and stirring up the crowd in Bethphage
2. Jesus is demanding to be acknowledged as Messiah
3. The crowd joined in this act of insurrection.
 - A. By spreading their cloaks on the road they were saying, we are completely at your disposal.

- B. The Palm Branches were nationalistic symbols.
- C. Hosanna literally means save us now.

Matthew 21:12-13

Jesus doesn't lead the rebellion to the palace. Jesus leads the rebellion to the Temple.

The King brings confrontation. He doesn't confront Roman rulers. He confronts the religious leaders.

1. The religious leaders were using religion to exploit people.
2. The religious leaders were excluding people from worshipping God.
 - A. The marketplace was set up in the court of Gentiles.
 - B. The prices in the marketplace excluded the poor.
3. In cleansing the Temple, Jesus did also confront the indifference of those who just accepted it as normal?

Matthew 21:14

Quickly, Jesus turns from confrontation to comfort.

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. Isaiah 42:3