

# This is Jesus

Topical, Matthew 21:1-22

**We have a lot of different ideas who Jesus is**

- “Liar, Lunatic or LORD”
- TV Shows, movies, plays. Some spot on, some blasphemous.
- Some religions speak of him, even Atheists - but they deny the truth about Him.

**Even scarier, is what Jesus himself says here:**

**Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"**

**“Those who practice lawlessness”**

That Jesus fulfilled the law, but he didn't abolish it. We are free from striving to attain its perfection, but that doesn't mean we use it, and grace, as an excuse for sin.

**We still have a responsibility to aim to live holy. To “be holy as I am holy.”**

There are many messages, many teachings, many even churches or “Christians” that claim Jesus, but miss out who he is. Even though he's clearly on display in His Word.

***\*\* I think that's where we all can go wrong - when we come to His word and don't expect to see Him or maybe don't look for him, instead trying to build something of our design out of the words on the page, absent of the one speaking them. \*\****

So this morning, let's look for Him in His word.

**[Pray]**

**21:1-3**

**Immediately**

**The Lord has need of them**

Immediately

**:4-11**

King is coming

Humble - actually meek -  
mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit, meekness

“Don’t mistake Jesus’ meekness for weakness”

Sitting on a donkey (horse v donkey, Revelation)

**:6-11**

Disciples went and did

The entire city moved

This is Jesus

Remember what his name means, "Jehovah is salvation"

**:12-13**

The temple of God

They knew who’s temple it was, no mistaking it

But the scripture is making it clear here

This was the place to worship God

John 4:21 NKJV - Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Sold doves - interesting as the dove, although a commanded sacrifice for specific amounts of sin, also represented the holy spirit

Acts 8:18-24

**MY HOUSE shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves (quoting Isaiah)**

prayer addressed to God

a place set apart or suited for the offering of prayer

prayer (worship); by implication, an oratory (chapel):—X pray earnestly, prayer.

**This was the place to meet with God. Although there was the sacrificial system, it wasn't about them reaching God, but God meeting with them**

Adam & Eve in the garden, evening walks

**Luke 18:9-14 NKJV - Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise [his] eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."**

**This is Jesus**

His passion was for the things of God - that God and man would meet, and pray, and worship, and fellowship

**And these people were getting in the way, and worse, robbing people**

**Overpriced goods**

Church in history charging for things, works for salvation, people earnestly trying to seek God and being turned away before they could even get there

**Bitterness, getting burned, worse, putting this behavior on God.**

That God cares about money, or there's some price to be paid monetarily to visit him

Priests in Bible stealing from what the people gave, cost them their lives

Ananias and Sapphira

**A den of thieves**

Good samaritan

**John 10:7-11 NKJV - Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. "All who [ever] came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the**

sheep did not hear them. "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have [it] more abundantly. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

They were stealing from people, but they were really stealing from God  
It's what the enemy does - he'd love it if we went to church and never spent time with God. The enemy would let us get that close if only to be kept far away. To deceive us into thinking we've encountered God and never truly be changed.

**God wants you and I. He doesn't want money. He doesn't need it.**

Widow's mites - she gave more than the rich  
Temple tax - Peter is told to go fish and get the coin out of the fish's mouth  
Taxes - give to Caesar what is Caesar's and God what is God's

**Your heart, your life, belong to God.**

And if that's the case for you, than everything you have is his anyway. You'd give more than 10%, you'd give 100%.

**God doesn't care about tithing more than he cares about your heart.**

"He owns the cattle on a thousand hills."

God doesn't need your money, but he commands us to give a portion - why? So that our heart remains right.

**Colossians 3:1-4 NKJV - If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ [who is] our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

The temple was to be a place of worship, not a place of business, of interest, of fleecing the flock.

**Money was to serve the worship, not worship serving the money.**

**:14-17**

Blind and lame came...he healed them. SIMPLY.

Do we believe this still can happen?

If Jesus is in our worship, why wouldn't it?

Why doesn't it?

"Saw the **wonderful** things He did and the children crying out

They were extremely displeased

**Yes, have you never read?**

Have we never read? Is the Bible opened in our lives, weekly, daily? Ever?

Is it opened in church? Is it studied? Poured over?

It's God's very word!

Why would we come to "worship" and stop at singing?

Why would we come to hear GOd's word, and listen to 30-60 minutes of some guy talking and telling stories and jokes and only, seemingly in passing, read one verse?

Who has time for that?

**Did we come to hear from God or hear from man?**

**Did we come to make ourselves feel better or to meet with God?**

**Did we come to serve Him or serve our idea of him?**

**He left them**

"Bethany means house of dates, house of misery"

It doesn't please God to leave behind those who are not about the things of God.

It grieves him.

The flood. The holy spirit

Ephesians 4:30 NKJV - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

**:18-22**

Let no fruit ever grow on you again

I don't think this is an accident to have this section of scripture right after the last. That this happened right after what just happened at the temple and with the leaders.

Remember, they were the leaders, the priesthood - supposed to be serving God and leading others - and they were opposed to God, despite their position and appearance

**Ezekiel 34:1-10**

Instantly

Faith...and prayer

"Whatever you ask in prayer, believe and you will receive"

This isn't a magic spell for a Ferrari or money, and if we think that, I think the words spoken to Simon would be spoken to us - that our hearts are bound by iniquity and bitterness

Instead, if we're meeting with God and seeking him and believing him - in prayer. In worship. In Word. In fellowship. In evangelism. Then it's no fiction to believe and expect for the things we talk about with him, desire with him, would happen.

**He is the living God.**

**Our relationship with Him should be living.**

"When Christ who is our life appears"

**This is Jesus.**

The one who is concerned for our souls.

The one who isn't about what man thinks.

Who, when he visits the house of God, expects God to feel welcome and the people - of all ages - to come and cry out and worship him.

And if they're not, he'll turn things upside down. He'll make a huge mess.

Because he won't let anything stand in the way of us getting to know him.

Is this the Jesus you know? If not, let it be. Take a closer look, and honest look, at what the entirety of scripture says about him.

After all, it's His word. He spoke it about himself to reveal himself to us. His loving, tender, meek, yet bold and uncompromising Son.